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THE

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"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 528.] LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12, 1855. PRICE {UNSTAMPED 4d. STAMPED ... 5d.

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DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS may be paid to George Hitchcock, Esq., of 72, St. Paul's Churchyard, Treasurer; or, at the Offices of the Society, 35, Ludgate-hill.

(Signed) JOHN LILWALL, Hon. Secretary.

₊ A Statement of the Proceedings of the Great Meeting recently held in the Guildhall, for the Promotion of a Saturday Half Holiday, may be had at the Offices, as above.

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FOUR LECTURES on the "Religions of the Four Great Nations now Contending in War," will (D.V.) be delivered on the following SUNDAY EVENINGS, by the Rev. EBENEZER DAVIES.

Dec. 16. MAHOMMEDANISM; or, the Religion of the Turks.*
Dec. 23. GREEK CHURCHISM; or, the Religion of the RUSSIANS.
Jan. 13. ROMAN CATHOLICISM; or, the Religion of the FRENCH.
Jan. 20. PROTESTANTISM; or, the Religion of the ENGLISH.

Service to commence at Half-past Six o'clock.

* A Collection will be made at the close of this Lecture, in aid of the Sunday-school.

THE IRON CHAPEL.—HERMON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL (constructed of corrugated iron), opposite CROWN-ROW, MILE-END-ROAD, will be OPENED for Public Worship, on TUESDAY NEXT, December 18, when TWO SERMONS will be preached; that in the Morning, at Eleven o'clock, by the Rev. JOHN GRAHAM, of Craven Chapel; that in the Evening, at Half-past Six, by the Rev. ISAAC VAUGHAN, of the New Tabernacle.

On the following SUNDAY, December 23, THREE SERMONS will be preached; that in the Morning, at Eleven o'clock, by the Rev. JOHN KENNEDY, M.A., of Stepney; that in the Afternoon, at Three o'clock, by the Rev. SAMUEL EASTMAN, Minister of the place; and that in the Evening, at Half-past Six o'clock, by the Rev. JAMES BENNETT, D.D., of Falcon-square.

Collections will be made after each Service towards the Building Fund.

This place of worship, immediately contiguous to a dense and increasing population, contains 500 sittings, including 80 free, and will cost about 750*l*., and as the larger proportion is yet to be obtained, the Christian public are earnestly solicited to assist in raising the amount required. The Building will also be used for the purpose of Sabbath-school instruction, as it will be impossible to erect School-rooms until the debt is liquidated.

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Age when Assured.	First Bonus, 1852. 5 Years.			Second Bonus, 1855. 8 Years.			Amount Payable at Death.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
20	49	11	0	40	11	3	1,090	2	3
30	54	11	6	45	0	7	1,099	12	1
40	61	16	10	50	18	3	1,112	15	1
50	73	16	4	61	1	5	1,134	17	9
60	99	16	8	82	5	3	1,182	1	11

All policies effected during the year 1855 will be entitled to share in the Next Division of Profits.

JAMES INGLIS, Secretary.

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Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

TRACTARIANISM *v.* EVANGELICISM.

WHETHER a congregation of Church-of-England worshippers can decorate as they please the edifice in which they customarily assemble—whether, for instance, law will permit them to divide the chancel from the nave of the church by a screen having brazen gates surmounted by a cross—whether within that enclosure they may have, in place of a moveable wooden communion table, a sort of altar constructed of stone, and let into the floor—whether they may cover it with different coloured cloths, white, red, violet, dark violet, or green, all adorned and embroidered, and varied according to the different periods of the ecclesiastical calendar—whether, when the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered, the table or altar may be covered with a white linen cloth ornamented with lace—whether, in ordinary times, a wooden cross may stand upon the table, or gilt candelabra with prodigious candles—and whether, finally, a credence-table may be used—these are the solemn questions, which, after four days' black-letter discussion in June last, were finally—no, not finally, for notice of appeal to the superior court has been lodged—decided by Dr. Lushington in the Consistory Court, on Wednesday last, in a judgment which occupied three hours in the delivery.

The two suits in which these momentous issues were at stake, were those of Westerton *v.* Liddell (St. Paul's, Knightsbridge) and Beal *v.* Liddell (St. Barnabas, Pimlico). They arose out of what the *Times* calls "the religious war in Belgravia," which, as our readers may remember, was commenced by the innovating zeal of Mr. Bennett, now of Frome, was ineffectually sought to be stifled by the Bishop of London, and has been carried on with much determination, ever since, by Mr. Liddell, the incumbent, on the one part, and Messrs. Westerton and Beal, churchwardens, on the other. In point of fact, Puseyism and Evangelicism have been wrestling another throw, in which, for the present, Puseyism is worsted. Dr. Lushington's judgment has left Mr. Liddell nothing of his symbolic ornaments but the road-screen with the brazen gates, and the gilt candlesticks and candles, which latter he is forbidden to light except when light is wanted.

The first feeling which will creep over the mind of a thoughtful Christian man, on reading through the elaborate judgment of Dr Lushington, is one of melancholy. That a Christian Church should be seriously divided, after the sacred Scriptures have been eighteen hundred years in the hands of mankind, upon questions of Church furniture—of what materials this article shall be made, and what shall be the colour of that—argues so low an appreciation of God's message of mercy by His Son, and so entire a misapprehension of its purport and drift, as may well make good men of all creeds blush for the perversity of human nature. According to the revelations of the last census, nearly one-third of the inhabitants of England, and they chiefly of the poorer classes, habitually absent themselves from public worship altogether. How best to adapt religious means to their wants, and bring home the Gospel to their hearts, might, one would have supposed, have awakened the most anxious concern in the breast of any Church, alive to its mission—most of all in that of the National Church, which professes to be charged with exclusive responsibility in reference to these classes. And yet in the full presence of this stupendous fact, we find Church parties ranged one against another, and expending time, talents, money, and zeal, almost without stint, in determining questions which, intrinsically, are as puerile, as ridiculously childish, as any which ever enlisted the thoughts of ecclesiastics in the dark ages. Is it possible to witness such a contest without a mournful feeling of humiliation? Is it by tables, table-cloths, crosses, and candlesticks, that poor, ignorant, panting human nature, is to be won back to righteousness, peace, and joy?

The above is one view of the matter. There is another. The introduction of these articles of church furniture was neither pressed by the one party, nor resisted by the other, on account of any value attached to the things themselves. They acquired their importance from the fact of having been regarded by both as representatives of Church principles condemned by the Reformation. On the part of the Tractarian clergyman, they seem to have been adopted with a view to assimilate worship in the Established Church of England to that authorised by the Papal Church at Rome. It was a bashful and insidious attempt to lead back an estranged daughter to the arms of an anxiously-expectant mother. There can be no mistake about this, in the judgment of common sense. Hence the determined resistance. The re-calcitrant churchwardens were justified in their apprehension that innovation was not likely to stop at the limits to which Mr. Liddell had already found courage to carry it. They had a right to suppose that when the congregation had become familiarised with these changes, others of greater importance would follow. They deemed it wise, therefore, to act upon the old maxim—"*obsta principiis.*" Nor do we blame them. Such an evil as that with which they were threatened, is best nipped in the bud.

The contest, however, is suggestive of still further thought. The suit will be carried up to the Judicial Committee of Privy Council, whence there is no appeal. How, if Dr. Lushington's judgment be there reversed? Why, then the Evangelicals will reap, in their own experience, the natural results of principles which they have gloried in maintaining. Law, which in the Gorham case gave them secure standing within the charmed circle of national privilege and emolument, will then have done as much for their opponents—nay, more, will have authorised innovations of which it is impossible to see the end. Who does not foresee that in case the judges, willing to allow the Puseyites a somewhat larger liberty than they allowed the Evangelicals, decide against the prohibition of symbolic furniture, on the ground of the comprehensive character of the Church Establishment—who does not foresee that in every church wherein a Puseyite incumbent ministers, there will be a simultaneous and rapid assimilation of the Protestant ritual to that of Rome? Is it not degrading to a Church to be placed in such a position of subserviency, that her doctrine and her service are alike forced upon her from without—possibly, too, by judges who do not even belong to her communion? And yet such is the necessary condition of a Church when allied with the State. She cannot enter into that compact without surrendering her independence. Every temporal privilege she enjoys has its reverse of ecclesiastical penalty. By so much as she takes from the State, she loses as a Church. She barters away for worldly power a proportionate amount of her spiritual freedom.

The principle of State-Churchism, as we have often argued, is essentially one of persecution. Hitherto that persecution has inflicted injury on those only who are without her pale. In modern times it seems destined to wound chiefly those who are within. The scorpion is said, under certain exigencies, to bury its sting in its own brain. State-Churchism bids fair to do the same thing. Why should men be prohibited by law from having altars, altar-cloths, crosses, and credence tables? Is there not intolerance here? We answer, law prohibits none of these things except to those who have married their Church to law. If there is intolerance, it is exhibited towards them by the very power they have invoked for their support. They appealed to Cæsar, and to Cæsar they must go. Their slavery is in their dower. They cannot have their rose without its thorn. Do they want liberty? They can have it by a renunciation of State support. But they cannot and must not have, at one and the same time, the maintenance and dignity of a wife and the liberty and independence of a widow. Let them choose which they prefer, but at any rate, let them cease to complain as if choice were not allowed them.

THE BURIAL YARD DESECRATION AT HITCHIN.

IN our last we gave an outline of this case, in which, judging from all the materials then before us, we thought the trustees had exhibited an excess of sensitiveness. Since then, other documents have been placed before us, and especially a letter of Mr. G. B. Sharpe, the party charged with an unauthorised and improper removal of the bodies of his relations, which have considerably modified our opinion, and inclined us to think that the trustees were justified in the steps they have already taken, and that they are under obligation to carry the case further. Their objection to Mr. Sharpe's proceedings seems to be, not to the removal of the bodies in question—nor to their transference from unconsecrated to consecrated ground—but solely to the *premeditated surreptitiousness* of the manner in which the act was performed, and to the insecurity to which our burial places must in future be exposed, if such an act is suffered to pass unnoticed and unpunished. We now gather from Mr. Sharpe's letter that he effected his purpose—about which we have nothing to say, but that we compassionate his weakness—under false pretences, and that what he accomplished by fraud, he was prepared, had the occasion demanded, to carry out by force. But if force and fraud are to be held justifiable in rifling Dissenting burial places for the removal of the dead, even by the nearest relatives of the deceased, there is an end at once to the legal protection which may be claimed by Dissenters equally as by Churchmen, for the sanctity of their grave-yards. We regret having seemed to lend countenance to such a clear outrage on right—and we are not surprised that the Trustees, having much fuller information than it was possible for us to obtain, felt it a duty they owed to the public, to vindicate by legal proceedings, the authority vested in them by law to guard the last home of humanity against such unwarrantable invasions.

SOCIETY FOR THE LIBERATION OF RELIGION FROM STATE-PATRONAGE AND CONTROL.

ON Thursday last, the executive of this society convened a meeting of their metropolitan friends, as is their wont at this season of the year, to put them in possession of information relative to the recent movements of the society, and more particularly to acquaint them with the policy proposed to be pursued next session. As the meeting was brought together by private invitation, it was, as may be supposed, of an influential and highly respectable character; and though the large room at the London Tavern was filled on the occasion, the committee were able to make arrangements for supplying all with an excellent tea, in greater comfort than was possible at some of the society's public gatherings. Among the gentlemen present we observed Jas. Bell, Esq., M.P.; Rev. J. Burnet; George Kemp, Esq.; Edw. Miall, Esq., M.P.; Wm. Edward, Esq.; Dr. Epps; Dr. Foster; Rev. W. Brock; A. S. Ayrton, Esq.; Rev. F. Trestrail; Professor Newth, of New College; Alfred Wills, Esq.; J. F. Bontems, Esq.; Ebenezer Clarke, Esq.; Dr. Massie; Rev. Mr. Pearce, of Romford; Rev. J. W.

Lance; Rev. H. Solly; Edward Swaine, Esq.; H. R. Ellington, Esq; Philip Crellin, Esq.; Rev. Basil Cooper; Rev. E. S. Pryce; James Spicer, Esq.; Rev. Owen Clark; James Bennet, Esq.; and several of the students at New College, Stepney College, and the Hackney Academy. It was also stated that there had been received letters, expressing regret and inability to attend, from Sir W. Clay, Bart., Sir Morton Peto, Bart., Mr. Morley, Alderman Wire, Mr. J. Remington Mills, Mr. Pellatt, M.P., Mr. Lindsey, M.P., Mr. Crossley, M.P., Mr. Cook, M.P., Mr. Donald Nicholl, Rev. Newman Hall, Rev. Samuel Martin, Rev. H. Townley, Rev. J. Corbin, Rev. T. Aveling, Rev. J. Graham, Rev. J. H. Hinton, Rev. W. Landells, Rev. Dr. Sadler, Rev. E. Tagert, Rev. Dr. Wills, Rev. W. Roberts, and several other gentlemen.

Tea having been dispatched, Mr. SWAINE moved, Mr. EBENEZER CLARKE seconded, and it was resolved, that Mr. EDWARDS, the treasurer, should preside.

The CHAIRMAN briefly opened the business, by stating that it was not intended to submit any resolutions, but the meeting would be addressed by several speakers on important topics. In the first place, he would call upon

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, the Secretary, to submit a statement on behalf of the Executive Committee.

From such statement it appeared that their recent efforts to attach new friends to the society had been so far successful, that they believed they had now a more numerous body of influential and hearty co-workers than at any former period. The annual income had also been considerably increased, but, from the pressure of the times, it would require exertion to keep up the amount, and more was needed to carry out their schemes. During the late session there had been no relaxation of vigilance in seeking to advance the society's principles in Parliament, directly or indirectly. It had been hoped that as Cambridge University was on a more liberal footing than Oxford, the bill for its reform would have admitted Dissenters to the M.A. degree, without the restrictions, copied from the Oxford Bill, which deprived it of all its practical value; but as that expectation had been disappointed, the committee had joined with other parties in opposition to the measure, the progress of which had been stayed. They had also been sanguine enough to think that the Church-rate Abolition Bill would have, at least, passed the House of Commons, as they had, in fact, had a majority in its favour in three divisions, and to defeat it, the opposition had been driven to tactics which indicated conscious weakness, and were calculated to excite disgust in the minds even of their own party. To ensure the future success of the bill, the committee were addressing themselves to inhabitants of places where rates had not hitherto been opposed, urging them to express the dissatisfaction which, it was known, existed, and they were prepared to furnish legal advice and information to enable such parties to fight the battle in vestry. The coming session would furnish as many occasions for the discussion of ecclesiastical questions as those of the last two years, so that the committee might find ample employment in continuing that exclusively watchful policy which had already been so successful, and had caused their operations to be respected by members of the Legislature who did not sympathise with their principles. But they thought that the time had come for assuming a more aggressive attitude, and as the subject of religious establishments and endowments in Ireland had obtained a firm grasp of the public mind, it was proposed that it should be formally brought before the House of Commons by Mr. Miall next session. The probability of a general election gave increased importance to the labours of the society's electoral committee, which had for some time been engaged in preliminary work, and it was urged that constituencies and individuals should be vigilant in preparing for the event, that their subject might not be lost sight of amid the din of war, but their parliamentary forces be strengthened. The committee expressed gratification at the increase of their correspondence, and the proved utility of their practical works on the subjects of Burial Acts and Church-rates. They had also lately established the *Liberator*, a monthly journal, to give information regularly on such topics, and respecting all the society's movements. The statement concluded by adverting to the fact that the society's Triennial Conference would be held next year, and a reference to the circumstances of the times, as affording encouragement to exertions for the establishment of complete religious freedom.

The Rev. WM. BROCK then addressed the meeting on the topic of "Unconscious Voluntaryism," and in a very interesting speech cited some practical instances of voluntary action on the part of Churchmen, and quoted extracts from the writings of those opposed to the voluntary principle. The late Bishop of Norwich had on one occasion candidly acknowledged, "No doubt, it is true, that I and my right reverend brethren hold our preferments under Act of Parliament and nothing else." The same prelate had also said, "My opinion is, that the Church of England has the learning; the Dissenters have the discipline;" and, said Mr. Brock, if we must choose between the two, who would not say that discipline was the most important? This same point was illustrated by the expressed opinion of an Edinburgh reviewer, who said, "Oppressively conclusive as may be the arguments in favour of a well-endowed and punctually-paid Establishment, they have, after all, an unpleasant earthly savour. One would not like to discover that Polycarp was waited on every quarter-day by a plump bag of gold from the Treasury." A while ago, a reverend dean, in opening a new church, thus addressed the congregation: "We began in faith. We had no funds, no lands, no opulent proprietors, no endowment, or parliamentary grant. All depended on a general appeal to Christian benevolence, founded on the urgency of the case. As for the erection of the first tabernacle, the thing was done by the free-will offerings of the people; so with this church of St. Mark's, it is all built and paid for." Could he have pronounced a better eulogium on Voluntaryism than that? Respecting that same Voluntaryism, Professor Lyell had written: "There are two great advantages, at least, in the voluntary principle—the ministers are in no danger of going to sleep, and they concern themselves much less with politics than with us. There is no lack of religious appliances—they are without example elsewhere." And the *North British Review*, an advocate for Church Establishments, had said: "It might not be unwise for statesmen to consider whether it would not be safer and better to have all the Churches of Christ alike established rather than to have the present plans of endowment made the instrument of corrupting the more pliant and irritating the conscientious and sincere." But, the most recent and important witness in favour of their principle was Lord J. Russell, in his recent speech at Exeter Hall. (Cheers.) He (Mr. Brock) had not expected so much from his lordship, who expounded, however unconsciously to himself, broad views of Voluntaryism. These views were commonplace enough to them; but their exposition on such a platform, and to the young men he addressed, was a step in favour of Voluntaryism, which ought not to be unnoticed. (Hear, hear.) He would add the expression of a belief that the conduct of the bishops in connexion with the new burial-grounds was rapidly alienating the members of the Church, and that out of the burial-grounds would come a resurrection of good old Nonconformist principles. (Laughter.) He thought that that society, under its old-fashioned name, the Anti-State Church Association, had had much to do with this change in the state of the public feeling. (Hear.) Let them go on steadfastly and patiently. Enough had been done already to encourage them, but their motto must be "Onwards." (Hear, hear.) It would not be enough to bring the Establishment to an end. It should be their aim so to indoctrinate the public mind with truth, that when that happy consummation arrived they would have cause to rejoice, with their disestablished neighbours, that what they prophesied had come to pass, that the Episcopalian Church had taken her proper position among the Churches of Christ. (Loud cheers.)

ALFRED WILLS, Esq., was introduced in connexion with the work issued by the society, "The Vestryman's Guide." Speaking to the subject of Church-rates, he said: During the past year they had, through the exertions of their friends in the House of Commons, succeeded in getting carried to a second reading a bill which they could never get near so far before; and although that bill was shelved in committee, there was every reason to hope that it would ultimately be carried triumphantly. (Hear, hear.) The attention of the committee had been directed, much more than it ever was before, to the importance of fighting the question wherever it could be fought in the parochial vestries. The present aspect of the Church-rate question was certainly very encouraging. Church-rates were now in a position somewhat similar to that in which "the sick man" was supposed to be some time ago, and he trusted it would not be long before they were buried. Meanwhile it must not be forgotten that they still constituted a very great evil. (Hear, hear.) In attacking Church-rates they were laying the axe to the root of the Church Establishment. (Hear, hear.) It was sixty-five years since there was held in that very building (he believed) the great meeting which gave rise to the celebrated work of Mr. Burke on the French Revolution. Let them compare the tone which Dissenters were able to adopt then with that which they could safely take now, and they would find abundant reason for satisfaction, hope, and encouragement. (Cheers.)

After a few observations from the CHAIRMAN on the subject of subscriptions, and the collection of papers with the names of new subscribers,

Dr. FOSTER proceeded to speak on the electoral strength of Dissenters, a topic which, he said, had necessarily occupied much of the attention of the society, as being the only means of improving the victories they had won. Their inquiries were still in course of progress, and he should not therefore be able to make a complete statement, but inasmuch as county qualifications must be completed by January 31, they were anxious to take the opportunity of showing what might be done. That much was possible, was tolerably well evidenced by what had already taken place. At the outset of their struggle, in connexion with the Test Abolition clauses in the Oxford Bill, the Government had given them the immense advantage of having nothing to lose—(hear)—a blunder which, independently of Lord John Russell's personal assurance, satisfied him, on the point of mere tact, that that noble lord had been no original party to their exclusion. (Hear, hear.) This gave them a hold upon the energetic assistance of numerous gentlemen, many of whom had, previously, hardly heard of their existence, and insured them all the benefit of mutual good offices for after use. They had used the influence so acquired to bring about the abolition of Church-rates, and the progress which had been made with respect to it was most remarkable, and would bear a favourable comparison even with the progress of the Anti-Corn-law League. In 1842, the number of votes in favour of Mr. Villiers' motion was ninety-two, and in 1845 the number was only 124, the majority against the motion being about two to one. In 1853, the number of votes in favour of the resolution on the Church-rate question was 172, the majority against the resolution being forty-eight. In the following year, a bill was carried to a second reading, and defeated by a majority of twenty-seven. Last year, the number in favour of the bill was 254, the minority of forty-eight being turned, in three years, into a majority of twenty-eight. (Cheers.) This change showed that the cause was a good one, and that the movement had the sympathy of the public. (Loud cheering.) They had found out that wherever there was a respectable element of Dissent in point of numbers and influence it was almost a matter of certainty that they could mould the voice of the members representing that constituency in favour of any particular question in which they took interest. The next thing was to find out where Dissent was strong. He would here beg to interpolate the observation, that the society before them was not a Dissenting society, and had no objects which any member of a Dissenting denomination, as such, would desire, or the Episcopalian, as such, need repudiate. (Hear.) They asked no man of his religious faith; but, be it what it might, they would endeavour for him that it should be unhampered by State-patronage and unfettered by State-control. (Hear, hear.) By Dissent he meant that political party in the country which was determined to carry out practically the principles of complete religious freedom. Of course, there was truth at the bottom in the phrase commonly used—"Church and Dissent." Where should the adherents of an Establishment be found if not in the bosom of the Establishment itself, and where its opponents, if not among those who were personally wronged by the mere fact of its existence. (Hear, hear.) The strength of Dissent in any constituency depended upon its numbers and the personal weight of individuals. On the last point, he believed he might say that the society had now the means of communicating with the great body of influential Dissenters in England and Wales. On the latter, the deficiencies of ordinary political handbooks was amply supplied by Mr. Mann. (Hear, hear.) He gave them the information as to the total accommodation furnished in every county and division by every religious denomination in that county or division. He also told them at what dates, reckoning by decennial periods, the existing churches and chapels had been built by the several denominations, showing the relative rate of progress of each during the last fifty years. He found, especially, that Dissent had gained since the Reform Bill; so much so, that, according to Mr. Mann, if the proportions continued to go on in the same ratio, by the year 1861, the Church of England would be in a minority of half a million sittings. They found, moreover, tables showing to what extent, and by what classes this accommodation was now made use of in each case. All this was carried out not merely through each county as a whole, but into every large town and every poor-law division. They felt, therefore, that by a careful study of the figures, they could tell what was their strength in every county constituency, and to what part of the county they must go to find it. Then they framed their calculations upon this basis. Not all Church-goers were Establishmentarians, and not all Dissenters were Voluntaries. They believed, on several grounds, that an estimate placing one-third of the Episcopalian body on the side, practically, of religious liberty, would not be far wrong. They also conceived that in giving up to the Church party the whole body of the old Conference Wesleyans, they were making a full allowance for appreciable contingencies. They made a further important concession to the side of caution in selecting in all cases the list of morning attendants. In Church, this number, though not always the largest, was rarely less numerous than at at any other period of the day. Among many Dissenting bodies it lessened by as much as three-fourths the basis of their calculation, while he believed it hardly ever happened that they thus obtained the largest number of estimated attendants. They proceeded, however, upon a shrewd observation of Mr. Mann's, that the time of attendance was a pretty sure index of the social status of the worshipper; and in seeking for that class of worshippers from which the electoral force of the body in that district was to be tested, he thought they could not err in taking that which was presumably the highest. It was also an observation of evident probability, that, having regard to the facility of obtaining the county franchise, the proportion of morning worshippers who were entitled to it, or who might be if they chose, was pretty much everywhere the same. On these bases they had framed tables giving the electoral strength of Dissent in every county constituency in England and Wales; and testing those tables by what they had actually seen done, the result was, that while they had an actual majority in a large number of counties, there was hardly one in which a decisive stand for their principles would not be attended with important advantages. (Hear, hear.) In Hertfordshire, for instance, their calculations gave them the elements of a majority; and, on looking to Dod, he found it was only a question of 100 votes whether the three Tory M.P.'s should not be replaced by three Liberals. (Hear.) Now, those Liberals must owe their seats entirely to their adhesion to the Religious Liberty party, and he trusted that before the 31st January came there were gentlemen present who might be prevailed on to invest money at 4 per cent. in 50*l.* rent charges in order to turn the balance. (Cheers.) In Oxfordshire the Religious Liberty party were considered to be very weak—believed to be weaker than was really the fact. Both in Oxford and in Banbury the liberal Church outnumbered the Dissenters, while the county families were to a man against Liberalism. He left out the University, because the constituency came from all parts of the kingdom; but of the five borough and county members he found that, when they began their movement, one was for and four against them; but on the last division, thanks to their action on the constituencies, and of the constituencies on their members, the numbers became four for and one against the anti-Church-rate motion. (Loud cheers.) He might add that the senior member who supported them was Mr. Harcourt, a relative of the Archbishop of York.

Huntingdonshire was represented by two Tory M.P.'s. Their tables gave them a clear majority if all parties registered their best. According to the Census, the population had doubled since the commencement of the present century; yet not one church had been built during that period; while the Dissenters—chiefly the Independents and Baptists—had raised among them a sufficient number of chapels to leave the proportion of religious accommodation to population just as it was in 1801. There were certain counties which especially showed what might be done in regard to registration. In the following places a majority of the persons entitled to vote were favourable to the views of Dissenters on the subject under consideration: Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, North Durham, North Essex, South Essex, West Gloucester, South Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, North Leicestershire, South Leicestershire, Middlesex, East Norfolk, South Northampton, North Northumberland, South Northumberland, East Somerset, East Suffolk, West Suffolk, East Surrey, East Sussex, North Warwickshire, Isle of Wight, and North Wilts. These counties and divisions of counties had between them about fifty members, and of that number thirty-two voted dead against the Dissenters on every question that arose. In all these cases, as he had stated, the Religious Liberty party were the majority. What they had not, and what they ought to have, was a majority qualified to vote. As soon as all their friends were placed on the register, they would be able to overpower their opponents at the elections. The only remaining question was, what did they want? Were their objects such as would unite such a party as he had been supposing? Well, they had lately gained the praise of moderation, and he thought they deserved it, for all they wanted was—nothing; and they were willing to take it five times over. The practical measures which they contemplated for the next Parliament, and on which they would need to have dictinct answers from candidates at the hustings, were simply these: no Church-rates; no School or University tests; no *Regium Donum*; no Maynooth grant; and no Irish Church. All these points, except the latter, had already lately engaged the attention of Parliament in a practical shape; and the amount of latent feeling respecting the latter, of which the society had evidence, justified them, they thought, in requesting Mr. Miall to bring that also forward in a practical shape. If, therefore, they would unite in the same efforts which had already laid so good a foundation, he believed that they had all their objects practically within reach. (Cheers.)

Professor NEWTH, of New College, was then called upon by the Chairman to speak, as previously arranged, on the subject of University Reform, but the Professor, on rising, said that, owing to the lateness of the hour, and his desire not to stand between the meeting and Mr. Miall, he should decline to enter on the topic assigned to him, contenting himself with a declaration of his unaltered attachment to the principles of the society, and his determination to promote, by every means in his power, the object which the society was endeavouring to carry out.

Mr. MIALL, M.P., then addressed the assembly in reference to the policy to be pursued in respect to Ireland. He observed, that if the present policy was to be the permanent policy of the association, he should begin to doubt as to their ultimate success. Everything, however, must have a beginning, and almost all efforts depended for their success on wise beginnings. They had had a startling truth to bring before Parliament, a truth which never engaged the attention of statesmen until lately; and it was not by thrusting abstract principles before the House of Commons, but by seizing every opportunity which presented itself for the practical illustration of their views, that they could in the first instance hope to make any advance. Having done this, they were now bound, he thought, to go further. Having familiarised the minds of our statesmen with principles from which only a few years ago they would have shrunk back with horror, they were now in a position to urge upon them some of those practical forms in which those principles ought to be recognised by Parliament. They must not bring forward a subject simply because it was an important subject, but because it was a subject which must come forward in some shape or other as pressing on the attention of the Legislature. It would not do to bring forward the question of the Irish Church Establishment, as it was done by the Whig-Radical party some twenty or twenty-five years ago. It could now be brought forward in a far better shape. Measures affecting the ecclesiastical condition of Ireland and the religious feelings of the people must of necessity come before Parliament in the next session. Mr. Spooner would bring forward his annual motion with respect to the Maynooth Endowment Act, and he had no doubt there would be a large majority for the disendowment of Maynooth. He should feel it his duty to vote with Mr. Spooner, but he felt a strong repugnance to giving a vote which might be misunderstood as a reflection upon the religious opinions of any person in the House. He should give his vote with the view of carrying out his anti-endowment principles, but he would much rather put the matter in such a shape as to make the anti-endowment principle prominent, and make the theological principle sink into comparative insignificance. (Hear.) It was absolutely necessary that the *Regium Donum* question should be brought forward. There was this anomaly attaching to it, that while it was becoming larger and larger every year, it was repudiated more earnestly by a greater number of persons in Parliament every year. The question arose, was it not possible to bring forward the subject in such a way as to place it fairly and impressively before the House, with respect to Ireland first, and England afterwards? The society proposed, at the earliest possible period of the session, to submit to the House a certain proposition with regard to the support of religion in Ireland, which proposition should go the whole length of the principles which the society professed. (Hear, hear.) They did not propose to attack the Established Church merely as an Established Church; they did not propose to attack the Catholic Endowment of Maynooth College merely as a Catholic endowment; they did not propose to attack the *Regium Donum* merely as an apportionment to two theological parties of the Presbyterian Church; they did not propose to attack even Ministers' Money, upon the ground of its being given exclusively to Protestants; but they wished to put the matter into such a shape as to express, and give the House of Commons an opportunity of expressing, its opinion that all these endowments are essentially vicious—(hear, hear)—that it is impossible so to distribute them among the different religious parties and denominations as not to commit great injustice, and that the only way in which religious equality demanded by the great majority of the Roman Catholics in Ireland can be settled, is not to attempt to give endowments to all, but to withdraw endowments from every party. (Hear, hear.) The plan which the society proposed to adopt would steer clear of all religious distinctions, and would have respect simply to the spirit of religion in Ireland, without any reference to the denominations which that religion might be supposed to represent. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the question was sufficiently ripe for an earnest discussion in the House of Commons, but at any rate he thought the time was come when the question should be put in that shape, and when they ought to ask the support of all their friends in the country in the discussion. (Cheers.) Of course, they did not expect a question of this kind to be settled in one year, or two, or perhaps ten; but it was of vast importance that at the next election the voters should be able at any time to say to any candidate, "Such a motion has been placed before the House of Commons in such a shape—are you or are you not disposed to support it?" (Hear, hear.) He would say no more than that they were prepared to go forward in the course they had commenced, trusting to religious truth and sound principle, and to that Divine power which was pledged to the support of religious truth wherever it was sincerely advocated. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BELL, M.P. for Guildford, moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman. He (Mr. Bell) advised Dissenters not to put too much faith in Lord John Russell, notwithstanding his late address; for Lord John in Exeter Hall and Lord John in office were two very different persons. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Bell) had heard Lord John within two years say that the very existence of the aristocracy and the Church depended upon the maintenance of Church-rates. (Hear, hear.) What reliance, then, could they place on a man who said one thing when in office and another when out? (Hear, hear.) He eulogised the Chairman for his activity and public spirit as treasurer of the society.

Mr. ACTON AYRTON, in seconding the motion, said he thought that the Chairman, in his remarks, had put too modest an estimate on the value of the committee's labours, which he thought very great. At the same time, he would counsel them not to be too sanguine in their anticipations, for their work was one attended by immense difficulty.

The vote was carried unanimously; and the Chairman, having returned thanks, the meeting broke up.

CAMBRIDGE.—On Wednesday evening, December 5, a meeting was held in the Aldermen's Parlour, in this town, convened by circular, at which Mr. Miall, M.P., and Rev. E. S. Pryce gave addresses to a numerous company of Dissenters and others, in explanation of the principles and proceedings of the society. Edmund Foster, Esq., was in the chair. A motion of approval of the society was proposed by Mr. Wetenhall, which was seconded by the Rev. W. Robinson, who took occasion, at the same time, to express his conviction that the present policy of the society was deficient in boldness, and that an attempt should be at once made to bring the simple question of the separation of the Church and State under the notice of the House of Commons. He advised that this should be done by a motion for inquiry, or by a direct statement of the injustice of an Establishment: such motion in the House of Commons to be preceded or accompanied by universal petitions on the subject throughout the country. As one of the originators of the Anti-State Church Association, he had always advocated this policy, and believed it to be the best adapted to accomplish the society's objects. He should give to the present organisation to a larger extent, his confidence and support, if it adopted this plan. Mr. Robinson's observations were heard with much attention, and appeared to be approved by several persons in the meeting. Mr. Miall explained that the society had thought it wise to avoid the discussion of abstract questions in the House of Commons, but was about, in the ensuing session, to promote an agitation on the ecclesiastical endowments of Ireland, including the Irish State Church, and that this agitation would rest on the principle of the evil of all religious establishments. The motion of approval of the society was, after these explanations, unanimously adopted, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Edmund Foster, Wm. Johnson, of Sidney-street; Wm. Bond, Josiah Smith, of Wittingham; J. H. Chaplin, of Fulborn; and Clear, of Shepreth, were appointed on behalf of the locality to correspond with the society in London, and several additional subscriptions were handed in. Rev. M. W. Flanders, of Cottenham; Rev. R. Blenkhorne, of Wellingham; Rev. — Tritten, of Cambridge; and Messrs. A. G. Brimley, Wm. Johnson, of Regent's-street, Cambridge, and Clear, of Shepreth, also took part in the proceedings.

THE CULLEN PASTORAL.

A pastoral from Dr. Paul Cullen, "exceeding the usual limits of verbiage," was read in all the chapels of Dublin on Sunday. The greater part of it related to the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Since the definition of that dogma by the Pope, how "much has been done to excite the hopes and console the heart of every true Christian." The "proud supporter of schism in the North"—the Emperor of Russia—has been humbled, "his finest provinces laid waste, his armies destroyed;" while "Catholic soldiers, placed by their Sovereign under the special protection of the Mother of God, planted their banners on the lofty towers of his proudest stronghold." In another great Empire—that of Austria—liberty has been granted to the Church.

It is a glorious spectacle to see a youthful Emperor raising himself above the prejudices of his time, despising the taunts and scoffs of unbelieving philosophers, undoing the unhappy work of one of his predecessors who had been led astray by the prevailing errors and false liberality of his days, and restoring to the Church that liberty and independence to which her Divine institution gives her a full right.

But there is a per contra. "The aspect of the times affords us ground for anxiety and fear." "We find that our brethren in Spain, Sardinia, Switzerland, and parts of Germany, have to undergo serious persecution." "At home, too, we have many motives for fear." Attempts have been made to poison the fountain of knowledge; to place education under the control of the Government, "always hostile to Catholicity;" "to impair the utility of a body of holy men, who devote their lives and energies to the salvation of the people."

Wicked romances and novels, calculated only to excite the worst passions of the human heart, and tracts destined to scoff at the doctrines and practices of our holy religion, and to undermine our faith, are printed in millions, and put in circulation with the most malicious activity. Who will give water to my head, and a fountain of tears to my eyes, to weep over the ruin and desolation caused, especially among unsuspecting youth, by the infidel and immoral publications, which spread like a torrent over the land, and hurry on to perdition innumerable souls that have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ? Let me implore of all to be on their guard against such productions of human malice; banish them from your houses, preserve your children from such destructive poison.

CHURCH-RATES.—PARISH OF HACKNEY.

On Friday night, a public meeting of the inhabitants of Hackney was held in the school-room of the chapel, Pembury-grove, for the purpose of considering what measures it was expedient to adopt in opposition to the Church-rate which it was contemplated to impose by the vestry meeting to be held on Thursday next. A few months ago an attempt was made to impose a three-penny Church-rate, which was opposed and defeated by a majority of 835 votes against 547. The proposition to be made on Thursday next is for a three-halfpenny rate.

Mr. S. MORLEY, on taking the chair, said, he trusted that all those present came prepared to work, for the occasion was one which demanded energetic conduct on the part of those who were about to engage in the contest. (Hear, hear.) He understood that Mr. Goodchild, the rector, demurred to the accuracy of the statement which had been circulated by them in regard to what occurred immediately after the close of the late contest, but he believed that the spirit of what occurred was not unfairly represented in that statement. (Hear.) It appeared to him that the just, right, and proper course for them to take was to decline a rate. (Hear.) He felt it a hard thing to be told that it was dishonest—for that was the word used—in them to refuse the payment of certain charges, when they expressed their readiness to contribute voluntarily more than their fair proportion to meet the necessary wants of the parish. (Hear, hear.) The Dissenters generally having been willing to meet the question in that way, it could not be said that they refused their fair liabilities with respect to such charges. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BATEMAN moved the first resolution, to the effect, that the meeting, wishing to live on friendly terms with their neighbours, regretted the attempt made to reverse the decision of the rate-payers, and to impose a Church-rate against their already recorded opinion. With regard to the denial of the statement referred to by the Chairman, he (Mr. Bateman) distinctly recollected, that a conference was proposed of four or six gentlemen on each side of the question, with a view of seeing whether they could not arrive at some conclusion which would save the peace of the parish, and obviate the difficulties of the question. Everything that appeared in the bill was correct to the letter, and he considered that they were right in saying that they had been treated with "marked discourtesy" when they found that no notice had been taken of their offer to settle the question till the circular which had been issued for the imposition of this new rate of 1½d. He could have hardly believed that Christian gentlemen and Englishmen would renew this attempt. He was astounded to think, that Christian gentlemen, that the churchwardens, particularly one of them who was himself a Nonconformist — ("hear, hear," and some hisses)—could have lent their names to impose such a rate in a parish where Mr. Morley resided, and which was represented by Sir W. Clay. (Cheers.) He knew that there were influences at work in the parish; the clergy and the rector, and a large committee, were at work to try and beat them. There must be, therefore, a canvass on their side; and, though they were late in the field, he believed there was enough of spirit in the parish to defeat this attempt also. (Cheers.) He recommended them to come early on Thursday, and not to go till they had the show of hands.

Mr. CHARLES GREEN seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Rev. Dr. MASSIE proposed the next resolution, pledging the meeting to sustain the resolution come to at the last occasion of proposing a Church-rate, as a reversal of that decision would lead to ill feelings and a prolonged contest in the parish. He had lived for eight years in the parish, and was anxious to live in peace with Churchmen and Dissenters of every persuasion. But this question of Church-rates did not permit a man to be in peace, however much he was desirous of it. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. JAMES POWELL seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. CARTER moved the next resolution, for the appointment of a committee to carry out the object of the meeting, and said that though he had been a resident twenty-eight years in the parish, he had never before taken any part in parish agitation; but, after the decision which had been come to two months ago, he felt bound to come forward to oppose the reversal of that decision.

Dr. OXLEY seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. HUBBARD moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman. Mr. R. GAMMAN, in seconding the resolution, said he hoped there would be no compromise, and the question of a Church-rate would be met by a direct Yes or No. (Hear, hear.) He would be willing to pay his portion for the necessary wants of the parish; but, after the way in which that proposition had been met, he should not be disposed to renew the offer which had been made on the last occasion. (Hear, hear.)

The motion passed, and the meeting separated.

A meeting was also held in Dalston, for the purpose of organising an opposition to the rate.

CHURCH-RATES IN CUMBERLAND.—In the little chapelry of Mosser, a quiet nook near the Lake of Lawes water, Cumberland, the proposal for a Church-rate has been twice defeated in the present year, and a few days ago a third attempt to impose a rate was equally unsuccessful.

A SENSIBLE ARCHBISHOP.—The Archbishop of York has lately consecrated one-half of the cemetery at Middlesborough-on-Tees, though there is no division, except a gravel walk, from the unconsecrated part. There is a chapel building on the grounds, half of which is set apart for the Church of England, and the other half for Dissenters.

THE ANNUITY-TAX.—The Town-council have lodged a minute, in which they propose that the rate at which the Annuity-tax should be levied under the Valuation Act should be 3*l.* 18s. 3½d. per cent. The clergy, in their minute, proposed "4½ per cent. at least." The matter will soon be decided by the Sheriff.—*Scotsman.*

THE METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S-DAY was inaugurated in due form, a few days since, in the Lower Room at Exeter Hall, where about one hundred gentlemen assembled, with Lord Shaftesbury in the chair. The declaration, or statement of objects, was unanimously adopted; and a Standing Committee of twenty-four clergymen and gentlemen appointed. The Rev. J. T. Baylee, the Rev. Dr. Rule, and the Rev. J. P. Dobson will be the honorary secretaries. The office will be at No. 11, Exeter Hall. The papers, circulars, &c., of the Committee will be issued in a few days.

RECANTATION IN ST. JOHN'S, LIVERPOOL.—On the 17th ult., five converts from Romanism were received into the communion of the Anglican Church by the Rev. W. F. Taylor, LL.D. The Controversial Inquiring Class in connexion with this church is carried on, with unabated interest, every Monday evening, which is always densely crowded with an attentive audience; a great number of Romanists attend, and ask questions on the Romish controversy.—*Liverpool Standard.*

The *Plymouth Journal* announces that the Rev. J. J. T. Somers Cocks, lately rector of Sheviocke, Cornwall, has gone over to the Church of Rome.

Religious Intelligence.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL CANVASS OF LONDON.

On Tuesday evening, December 4th, an aggregate meeting of ministers, teachers, and friends of Sunday-schools, in connexion with the South London Auxiliary Sunday-school Union, was held at Surrey Chapel, Blackfriars-road, when the chair was taken by A. PELLATT, Esq., M.P. The spacious chapel was crowded in every part, and the Chairman was surrounded by a large number of ministers and gentlemen connected with the south of London. The proceedings appeared to excite great interest. Mr. H. DENBY read a hymn, which having been sung, prayer was offered by the Rev. E. CECIL.

The CHAIRMAN having opened the proceedings with an appropriate address, Mr. DANIEL PRATT, Finance Secretary of the Auxiliary, made a statement on the subject of the proposed canvass, and read a number of letters from ministers and other persons of note regretting their inability to attend, and expressing hearty sympathy with the object. Mr. Pratt stated that whereas one in 7½ of the entire population were receiving Sunday-school instruction, in the metropolis there was but one in seventeen; in the south of London one in every sixteen. The estimated number of children between five and fifteen was about one-fourth of the population—say 150,000; there was, therefore, only one in four of the children in Sunday-schools! Surely the knowledge of such a fact would rouse every Christian in the district to redoubled efforts. (Hear, hear.) After entering into further details on the subject, he said, it appeared that, out of the 95 schools associated together in the South London Union, 64 of them report that they had room for additional scholars. Shall this school accommodation longer remain unoccupied, when there were some 40,000 or 50,000 children in the district outside our schools? The ministers, teachers, and friends of these schools he would specially ask to join in the canvass, the plans and details of which were to be presently submitted.

The Rev. H. J. BETTS moved:—

That this meeting recognises the goodness of God in the institution of the Sabbath-school, and rejoices in the happy results to the juvenile population of our land that have followed; but learns with deep regret, from the late Census returns, that upwards of two hundred thousand of the children of London are unconnected with the Sabbath-school, of whom it is to be feared that a large proportion are rising up in ignorance and vice, none caring for their souls.

He thought the thing could be done, and must be done. (Cheers.) And let them take care how they did it. Don't pull at the horse's collar till they dragged off the neck of the animal. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. W. LUCY, in seconding the resolution, said that though they had to lament that there was still a deficiency in proportion to their efforts, yet, if one soul out of a hundred, or even out of a thousand, were saved, that result would be worth all the money, the time, and the labour that would have been expended. (Loud cheers.) He gave some statistics from his own district.

The resolution was supported by the Rev. C. T. KEEN, and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. GOVER then read the following proposed plan of operations:—

ARRANGEMENTS.

That each Branch Union appoint a Canvass Committee to unite with itself, ministers, superintendents, teachers, visitors of Bible, Christian Instruction, and Tract Societies, and others.

That each Branch Canvass Committee divide the locality into districts, and form a district committee of the ministers, teachers, and other members of one or more congregations situated in such districts.

That the minister and superintendent of every school be applied to, to furnish information as follows:—

Will your school unite in this movement?

What room have you in your school for additional scholars?

Have you any unoccupied room or building which can be brought into use if required?

How many canvassers can you furnish who are not at present connected with the school? Ladies are specially invited to engage in this work.

How many additional teachers can you obtain?

Is there any outlying district in your neighbourhood where a branch school can be opened by you?

Who are the delegates from your school to the Canvass Committee?

Have you any practical suggestions to offer with regard to this movement?

What are the limits of the district which you will undertake to canvass and provide instructors for, and how many houses does it contain? Give the names of the streets, &c.

Will you distribute the Address to congregations?

That meetings of the teachers and friends be held in each district, to call public attention to the movement.

That the districts be mapped out, and allotted to the respective committees and canvassers.

CANVASSERS.

That the members of congregations and the visitors of religious societies be invited to unite with the teachers in this work, and their names be enrolled and transmitted to the canvass committee.

MODE OF CANVASS.

That the canvass be commenced with meetings for prayer in all the districts.

That on the appointed day the canvass be commenced and carried on, if possible, in all the districts simultaneously.

That, if possible, two canvassers go together; that they call upon every house and upon every family.

That they distribute to parents the Address provided for that purpose, and seek their co-operation in promoting the object by sending their own children, and advising their neighbours and friends to do the same.

That the canvassers ascertain how many young persons between the ages of four and eighteen, are not in Sunday-schools, and endeavour to obtain a promise from them to attend.

That the names of scholars promised be recorded, and a note of recommendation to the superintendent of some school in the neighbourhood be given to them.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS.

That returns be made from time to time of the progress of the arrangements.

That the names and addresses of the parties visited be returned to the Canvass Committee.

That a record be preserved in every school of the names of the scholars introduced by the canvass, that their permanent attendance be encouraged, by visitation, &c., and that a return be made of their continuance to the committee.

So far as information had been received, there was room for additional accommodation in most of the schools. It was proposed that special prayer-meetings should be held in the several districts to invoke the blessing of God upon the enterprise.

The visitors will go out upon their engagements in twos and threes, taking with them books in which to record all that is necessary. In the course of the canvass, these books will be exceedingly valuable, containing, as they will do, records of all that has been done, and all that has been thought worth remembering during the time occupied in canvassing. The teachers will supply notes of recommendation to the children, introducing them to the schools. [Mr. Gover here read a note of recommendation connected with the schools at Birmingham, as a specimen of the kind of note the London teachers were to adopt.] The counterpart of this note is kept in the record or minute-book belonging to the teacher. Then we desire co-operation among the parents. For this purpose, an Address is being prepared by the Rev. Samuel Martin, of Westminster, to be put into their hands. The visitors will go to each house in this systematic manner, with these credentials; and that which could not be done in any other way, or by persons connected with the Government, or a Parochial Committee, will be done by persons connected with Christian congregations, who will, I have no doubt, in every case, be cordially welcomed by the parents. The parents will, I am confident, appreciate the effort; and will give us credit for, at least, denying ourselves in order that their children may be taught of God, and instructed in the truths of the Bible. Well, perseverance comes next. The children must be visited again and again, and be encouraged to attend the schools. By these means, and under the blessing of God, we expect great and lasting good from this canvassing movement. (Loud cheers.)

A verse of a hymn having been sung, the Rev. JOHN ADEY moved:—

That this meeting pledges itself to aid the Sunday-school Union in carrying out the proposed canvass of London, with a view to obtain the attendance of the children now under no religious instruction on the Lord's-day.

Mr. Adey referred to the success of the Birmingham canvass, which resulted in the addition of some 5,000 children to the schools of the town, and which had had a most beneficial influence upon all the religious societies of the town.

The Rev. J. G. PIGG seconded, and the Rev. W. P. TIDDY supported, the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Mr. ELDRIDGE moved:—

That this meeting earnestly commends this important movement to the active co-operation and sympathy of the ministers, churches, and congregations of the south of London.

In the course of his speech he eulogised the stirring letters of Dr. Campbell, appealing to the Churches of the metropolis, to support the movement. The resolution was supported by the Rev. B. PRICE and Mr. JOHN CORDEROY.

Mr. JOSEPH MAITLAND moved, and the Rev. B. LEWIS seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, who said that he felt if we are really Christians, not in word only, but in deed and in truth, we shall make this subject a paramount duty. You are about to canvass, and we members of Parliament know full well what canvassing is—(laughter and cheers)—and we know, as you will soon discover, that it is necessary to go about the work in a spirit of zeal and energy and determined perseverance.

Mr. PRATT then said, that he exceedingly regretted that Dr. Campbell, who had rendered such important services by his valuable Letters, and who promised to be with them, was unavoidably absent. (Hear, hear.)

The doxology having been sung, and the benediction pronounced by the Rev. John Adey, the proceedings terminated.

The North London Auxiliary to the Sunday-School Union also convened a Public Meeting on Tuesday evening, to consider the subject of the proposed Canvass of the Metropolis, with a view to the increase of attendants upon Sunday-school instruction. The meeting was held at Falcon-square Chapel, Aldergate-street, the Rev. John Bartlett, the junior pastor of the place, presiding. The speakers were Mr. Henry Child, Mr. Jones of Jewin Crescent, Mr. W. Rothery, the Rev. G. L. Herman, of the Hoxton Academy Chapel, the Rev. J Spong, Mr. Hadrill of Maberley Chapel School, Mr. W. Groser, Mr. James Cauldwell, Mr. J. P. Bidlake, Mr. F. Cuthbertson, Mr. C. Holmes, and others. Resolutions, similar in character to those proposed at Surrey Chapel, were adopted. One important point mentioned was the obtaining of suitable teachers, and whether the children who were induced to attend their schools were likely to remain. In reply to an inquiry from Mr. Gover, Mr. Cooper, who had done much to promote the canvass in Birmingham, said that there was a supply of teachers equal to the demand.

This was brought about by the attention of the Churches and congregations being directed to the subject by the ministers from their pulpits, and by the teachers in local meetings. In nearly every instance the canvass for children was preceded by a canvass of the congregation for teachers. (Hear, hear.) In answer to the question, Will the children, when obtained, remain with us? Mr. Cooper replied, on the authority of their experience in Birmingham, "Some will not, but many will; and this latter number will depend upon the interest manifested in them by the teachers." (Hear, hear.) He could state one fact: "At the time of the canvass, seven months ago, we formed an elementary class of boys, placing seventy scholars in it; and since that time the class has had no additions, and yet there were forty lads present yesterday (last Sunday) afternoon,—and that was not an unusual number."

It was stated by one speaker that 7,000 canvassers would be required for the whole metropolis. It was also stated that the Church Sunday School Union would heartily co-operate in promoting the canvass, as also would the Wesleyan Tract Society, the Christian Instruction Society, and the City Mission. Mr. Cuthbertson adverted to the difficulty of keeping the children when they had got them:—

If the bad schools were to be filled with children to-morrow, the effect would be very much like putting water into a sieve,—they would all soon be out again. (Hear, hear.) Look at the Ragged Schools, and see how they were filled. That in Golden-lane, for example, last Sunday night, was crowded, and the door had to be shut against many who sought for admission. (Hear, hear.) So far as the children of London were concerned, he believed the fact to be just this: they want to be taught, and we won't teach them; and he only hoped, that the effect of this canvass would be to force the whole subject, with irresistible power, upon the attention of the Christian Church. (Cheers.) He hoped the schools would be so crammed, that they would be obliged to invade the chapel, and so disturb the peace of the congregation, and destroy their comfort, that, in pure self-defence, they would be obliged to provide suitable accommodation for the poor children. (Laughter and cheers.) He was quite satisfied that much good would flow from holding district meetings as

had been suggested. It would be found that ministers, deacons, and others, were not averse to assemble together in their own parish. (A laugh.) Let the teachers get to them and talk to them, and there was no reason to fear of sympathy and help in the proposed movement. (Hear, hear.)

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

THE RAGGED SCHOOLS OF THE METROPOLIS.—Mr. Locke, the Honorary Secretary to the Ragged School Union, writes to the *Times apropos* of the subject of Reformatory Schools, and suggests that in addition to an effort by the State to cure the evil of juvenile delinquency, something should be done to prevent it. Referring to the efforts of the Ragged School Union, he says: "About eleven years ago some friends engaged in Sabbath schools joined me in forming a society to establish and support schools for a class of children below Sabbath scholars. We formed about sixteen schools in London which admitted the ragged class. We named them 'Ragged Schools,' and called our society the 'Ragged School Union.' Our income the first year was only 64*l.*, our voluntary teachers 200, our paid teachers none. Mark the difference now. Last year we had 130 ragged schools in London alone, our voluntary teachers numbered 1,850, our paid teachers 320, while our income considerably exceeded 3,000*l.*, and the sums raised and expended in their own localities five times or six times that amount. We have established an emigration fund for the purpose of sending the best behaved boys to the colonies, where hundreds we have sent out are earning an honest livelihood. We have established a Refuge Fund, also to pay for the more destitute boys and girls, who are entirely supported in the various Refuges now in connexion with our schools, and we are now paying so much a head for a large number of these poor outcasts. We have managed to find situations for nearly 1,000 per annum, friendless lads and girls; and last January we had the pleasure of giving rewards and prize cards to above 300 of these rescued ones who had kept in one situation for above twelve months, and earned a good character by their industry and good conduct. We have penny banks, clothing clubs, industrial classes, lending libraries, and all sorts of things for the good of these 'wild Arabs' of the metropolis, while 100 shoeblacks, at least, from our schools, in red, blue, or yellow jackets, now grace our streets, ready to prove to every passer-by how much industry excels idleness, and cheerful occupation surpasses skulking, scowling vagrancy. Surely, all this says something for private effort and Christian philanthropy. The self-denial required especially for guiding and teaching these wild and lawless ones, is amply rewarded by the results already achieved. But all that has yet been done by us and others is only one half or one quarter of what is required for London alone. We are convinced that thousands upon thousands roam the streets unheeded and uncared for, to plunder and do mischief, to rob tradesmen in all directions, to empty the pockets of 'unsuspecting women,' and to annoy us all in a variety of ways."

MAZE POND, SOUTHWARK.—The Rev. John Aldis has maintained, with honour and much usefulness, the pastorate of Maze Pond Chapel, Southwark, nearly eighteen years. He has at length been induced to accept the pastorate of the General Baptist Church at Reading; and on Sunday week he took his formal farewell of the Church and congregation. In the evening, Mr. Aldis concluded his sermon by referring to the circumstances under which he was about to resign his charge. "The main facts," said he, "are known to those by whom they ought to be known—the Church. I may just say, that, in going, I am not following the dictates of ambition — it is a smaller place — but I regard it as large enough for my abilities. I am not going for the allurements of gain — it is just the reverse. Let that be taken as an example that ministers do not always remove for gain. Nor do I remove in consequence of any recent ministerial appointment in the neighbourhood. Nor do I leave because it is the wish of the Church I should do so. Only a short time since they recorded their desire that I should remain with them; their generosity has never failed, and I have always received more than I anticipated. Neither do I leave in consequence of any disagreement with my brethren in office. They have been kind and considerate. None of these causes have induced me to leave. My grief is of a totally different kind. I do not expect to find a kinder people. This much I may say—the duties and difficulties of my post here threatened to be beyond the reach of my abilities when a few more years had rolled over my head; and rather than stay to injure the cause, I have thought it wise to resign, that some younger man may come amongst you, more fitted to fulfil its important duties. I have been rather drawn to, than sought Reading, whither I now go. I have been repeatedly solicited to go there; the finger of God has appeared to indicate that as the way I should take; and I go there with that conviction." With evident emotion, which was participated in by many of the auditory, Mr. Aldis pronounced his parting words. The service was concluded by the administration of the Lord's Supper, to which a great number sat down.

OPENING OF GREENACRES GRAMMAR-SCHOOL, NEAR OLDHAM.—This institution, which has been erected through the enterprising liberality of the Rev. G. G. Waddington, minister of the Greenacres Independent Chapel, was opened on Thursday evening week by a public *soiréé*, which was numerously and respectably attended. After tea a public meeting was held in the lecture room of the institution, an elegant and capacious apartment, James Platt, Esq., of Werneth Park, occupying the chair. The proceedings were commenced with praise and prayer, conducted by the Rev. J. Hodgson, after which the Rev. G. G. Waddington read a lengthy paper, explanatory of the nature and objects of the institution. It is to comprise four divisions, in which all the usual branches of instruction will be taught, with the addition of French, German, and music. It is to be conducted strictly on the voluntary principle, and it will be decidedly religious in its spirit, aim, and tendency, and Mr. Waddington concluded by assuring his audience that should its success be equal to his hopes, it was his full intention to convey the institution over to trustees as an educational institute for the benefit of the neighbourhood for ever. The Chairman then addressed the meeting at some length, observing that institutions of that kind were very much wanted. The Rev. T. H. Hines and the Rev. D. Fraser next addressed the meeting. The Chairman next called on E. Miall, Esq., M.P., who was received with applause. After some introductory observations, he said that the institution just founded was calculated to tell upon future generations in Oldham, and probably might mould, in some respects, the history of the place. His conviction was, that if they took ages instead of years, they would find that England would become a more enlightened people in the course of fifty or 100 years, by the operation and expansion of this principle of life than it could have become by any system which was extended with a view to cover the whole ground, but which did not contain within itself all the elements of vitality absolutely necessary to a continuance of this great work. Mr. Miall referred at some length to the importance of more attention being paid in our schools to the teaching of "common things," and he concluded by paying a high compliment to Mr. Waddington for the sincerity, earnestness, vigour, and self-sacrifice he had displayed in the undertaking. Interesting addresses were afterwards delivered by Peter Seville, Esq., and the Rev. Messrs. R. M. Davies and Joseph Waddington; after which Councillor Leach moved, "That the Greenacres Grammar School is an institution well worthy of encouragement and support." Mr. F. W. Booth seconded the resolution, which was supported by the Rev. Mr. Dixon, of Springhead, and carried unanimously. Mr. John Booth next moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried by acclamation. Mr. Miall responded, and a vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman, the proceedings terminated by the company singing the National Anthem.

NORTH PETHERTON.—The Rev. W. Phillips has accepted the cordial and unanimous invitation of the Church and congregation at North Petherton, Somerset, and commenced his labours on Sunday, the 18th ult.

KIDDERMINSTER.—The Rev. W. H. Hines, of Milverton, Somerset, has accepted a unanimous invitation from the Church of Ebenezer Chapel, Kidderminster, and intends entering upon his new sphere of labour on the first Sabbath in January.

MR. HENRY ROWSON, of Horton College, has accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Baptist Church, Warrington, and is expected to commence his stated labours there the first Sabbath in the new year.

PLYMOUTH.—On Monday evening, Nov. 26, the Rev. J. Griffith Jukes (late of New Broad-street Chapel, London), was publicly recognised as the pastor of the Church and congregation assembling in Union Chapel, Courtenay-street. The Rev. A. Hampson, of Devonport, read suitable portions of the Scripture, and offered prayer. The Rev. R. Alliott, LL.D., delivered the introductory discourse; the Rev. J. Pyer, of Morrice Town, offered the recognition prayer; and the Rev. J. Watson, Principal of Hackney College, delivered an impressive charge to the minister. The other parts of the service were conducted by the Revs. R. W. Noble, M. Slater, and G. Short, B.A. The chapel was completely filled, and a deep solemnity pervaded the assembly. On the following Sunday evening, the Rev. Eliezer Jones, of Norley Chapel, preached to the Church and congregation. The chapel, which stands in a fine position, was built about eight years ago, chiefly through the efforts of the late pastor, the Rev. T. C. Hine, now of Sydenham.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL AND SCHOOLS, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES. — On Tuesday, the 27th November, the first stone of the above building was laid by Sir C. E. Eardley, Bart., assisted in the accompanying service by the Rev. T. Aveling, of Kingsland; the Rev. John Burnet, of Camberwell; and the Rev. James Hill, of Clapham. The Rev. T. Aveling opened the introductory service, which was held in the Assize Courts, by prayer and the reading of suitable passages of Scripture. The Rev. John Burnet delivered a very chaste and appropriate address, which he concluded by expressing his sentiments on the closely related question of the sanctity of the Sabbath, any desecration of which by the opening of places of amusement he most earnestly deprecated. The document to be placed under the stone was then read by the Rev. L. H. Byrnes, B.A., and the assembly proceeded in order to the ground. After the laying of the stone, Sir C. E. Eardley, Bart., expressed the great pleasure it gave him to take part in this ceremony, both on public ground and also from his knowledge of the minister, Mr. Byrnes. He rejoiced, because this movement marked the progress which had been made in Kingston by the Church of which Mr. Byrnes was minister, and because in such an important town a building suited to the age and neighbourhood was now to be erected. He then contrasted the religious freedom enjoyed in this country with the state of the continent of Europe, alluded to the Romanizing tendencies of the present day, and the necessity there was for all Evangelical Christians to take their stand upon Christ as the Great Corner Stone of union, and sure foundation of the Church. The Rev. James Hill then offered the designation prayer, and the very interesting service closed with the Doxology and Benediction. In the evening a public meeting was held in celebration of the event, in the Assize Courts: W. Leavers, Esq., of Surbiton, in the chair. After prayer, offerod by the Rev. W. Collings, Baptist minister of Kingston, and a statement of the present aspect of the movement by the Rev. L. H. Byrnes, B.A., the meeting was addressed by the Rev. R. H. Smith, of Surbiton; Rev. James Hill, of Clapham; Rev. E. Waite, M.A., of Leatherhead; and the Rev. T. Aveling, of Kingsland. Various votes of thanks were then passed, and the services of the day were concluded by singing the Doxology, and prayer. The building is in the Grecian style, from a design by Messrs. Barnett and Birch, architects, Verulam-buildings, Gray's-inn, London, to be built by Messrs. Thompson and Crosswell, builders, Islington. It is intended to accommodate 600 adults and 200 children, without side galleries. The schools and vestries are to be at the back of the chapel, and will be very commodious and complete. It is expected that school fittings and all extras, not included in the building contract, will involve an outlay of 3,000*l.* This, together with the ground and materials of former chapel, and 600*l.* already expended in purchasing and enclosing the ground added to form the site of the present building, will make the whole property worth, when complete, at least 4,000*l.*, of which 1,400*l.* remain still to be raised.

Correspondence.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS FOR THE NAVY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

61, Union-street, Stonehouse, Dec. 8, 1855.

SIR,—The *Catholic Standard* of the 18th ult. contained the following announcement: "The Hotspur, 44, formerly the gunnery ship of the Royal Dock-yard Artillery, is to be fitted (up) as a chapel for the use of the Catholics of this (Plymouth) port."

It is also reported that it is the intention of our Government to appoint a Romanist chaplain to this ship. Admitting the report of this appointment to be a mere *on dit* (though, on good authority, *it is* believed to be otherwise), there is, in this announcement, quite enough to awaken our fears respecting the movements of Government. Frustrated in their efforts, a few years ago, openly and by parliamentary sanction to subsidise all religious teachers, there seems now an attempt to accomplish the same object in a way more dangerous, because more likely to elude observation. I think it may be fairly assumed, that the governmental movement here announced will not be an isolated one. If such a step be taken at Plymouth, it may be inferred it will be taken elsewhere. If so, the Government that fits up chapels for Romanists will not hesitate, *pro re nata*, to appoint chaplains to these places of worship. Indeed, the language of a Correspondent of the *Catholic Standard*, and that of its editor, seem not indistinctly to imply this to be an existing fact. Admitting this, where will be the limit?

I scarcely need say that of all the calamities that can befal this country, the association of Romanism, as such, with civil power is one which is to be dreaded by every lover of liberty. In *any* ecclesiastical body, powerful numerically and by its wealth, whose movements are under the control of a central body, and are connected with the Government by regal establishment and endowment, a mutual influence on each other will necessarily be exercised, unfavourable to individual liberty. In the case of Romanism, indeed, the centre of power being out of the circle of British rule and irresponsible to it, in many of its civil relations, this ecclesiastical system becomes an *imperium in imperio* (like the Greek Church in Turkey, with the Czar as its head), especially dangerous, and therefore all aims on its part or that of our rulers, with respect to its receiving governmental patronage and endowment, ought to be most vigilantly watched.

The designs of the Catholics and the conduct of our Government with them, as seen in the *Standard*—the organ of Romanistic thought and sentiment—are indeed ominous circumstances. Here is a new Maynooth affair —nay, a something worse than that of Maynooth. That is above board. In that case, the endowment is subject to a parliamentary vote: the matter is open and seen. Here the arrangements are less exposed to public view. Here the sappers and miners are at work under ground. If the former has been sufficient to arouse the nation to active exertion—if the so-called Papal aggression, a question of titles, was a source of painful apprehension—how much greater reason is there to dread lest, whilst dreaming of security, we find, ere we are aware, the citadel of liberty destroyed, and ourselves placed within the grasp of that monstrous politico-ecclesiastical system —the Papal power.

To awaken the attention of my countrymen to the movements of Government in this matter—to invoke the sympathies and aid of the opponents to all religious endowments—and to endeavour, through your journal, so effective in this good work, to influence the electors of this kingdom on this subject, I send you this article.

Yours respectfully,

G. SLATER.

THE WAR.

THE CRIMEA.

The *Kreuz-Zeitung* publishes the following, dated, "St. Petersburg, Nov. 29. Since the snow has been covered with a crust of ice, enormous trains of sleds, 'six miles long,' have entered the Crimea by Perekop and the spit of Arabat, loaded with provisions and articles for the use of the army." News from the Crimea to Nov. 25, states that snow has fallen. The Egyptians of Eupatoria have been sent to Asia. The Russians are fortifying their position near Inkermann. The redoubts of the Allies on the Tchernaya keep up a heavy fire. The north forts do not fire much now. It is expected that a serious affair will come off shortly. The Allies have constructed twenty-six batteries to attack the north forts. Three

hundred and sixty cannon are in position on our lines of the Tchernaya.

The correspondence of the daily papers reaches to Nov. 27. There had been much wind, snow, and rain. We subjoin a few extracts:—

The army is getting into better shape and form every day. Excellent warm clothing has been issued to the men, and so uniform is it in style that no one can distinguish officers from men, unless by the difference of style and bearing. Our Allies are astonished at the profuseness of our military wardrobe, which not only contains a waterproof suit, helmet and all, but fur coats and caps, cowhide boots, tweed coats lined with cat or rabbit skin, &c., and, for the officers, suits of sealskin, sold at moderate prices. The French only receive from their Government an ordinary cloth capote, and must buy any waterproofs or fur which they may find necessary. All the Highlanders are in huts, so are the Piedmontese and the French at Baidar.

The Russian is well supplied with all munitions of war and with the means of subsistence. The whole strength of the empire has been devoted to the supplies of the Crimean army, and the Russian general, no doubt, calculates on the concentration of such a force in the Crimea next spring as will enable him to meet the Allies in every point which they may assail, knowing that Perekop is unassailable by a large force, owing to the want of water, and to its geographical position, and that no army can operate in the rear of his position, in consequence of the nature of the country.

If the accounts of deserters may be trusted, the Russian troops are by no means in a brilliant state. The regiments, they say, are so reduced that most of them have been melted down to two battalions, and, if the orders which have been given to send twenty men from each company into the interior to instruct recruits are carried out, some regiments will altogether disappear.

The first expedition to Kertch, the despatch of the Highlanders to Eupatoria, and the expedition to Kaffa, were all prevented by our electric batteries at London and Paris, and it is very questionable if they did not do the Allies more harm than the Russian guns.

The Russians seem rather anxious about the Tchongar road, and they have thrown up batteries near the bridge, as well as on both the peninsulas which it connects. The Tchongar and not the Perekop road is said to be their main channel of communication with the interior, which is not at all surprising, as this latter is more exposed, owing to the contiguity of the allied forces at Eupatoria.

The north batteries have been playing on the south side with little intermission all day. This forenoon they opened a cannonade on the French near the Little Redan, from the 12-gun battery at Inkermann, and dispersed some working parties, but did them no harm. They have kept up a fire ever since at the rate of two guns a minute on the town and on the docks.

Since the fall of Sebastopol, not a man of regular troops is said to have arrived in the Crimea—only about 20,000 militia. These latter were of those enrolled in April last. They form the laughing-stock of the regular army, and are bullied by the inferior officers, although they say the generals are kind to them.

Admiral Lyons, in a despatch to the Admiralty, reports the destruction of corn, &c., the harvest of this year, collecting in the neighbourhood of Gheisk-Liman, for the purpose of being transported in the winter months, partly to the enemy's army in the Crimea over the frozen Gulf of Azoff, and partly to his army in the Caucasus by the military road. Commander Kennedy, in reporting his large share in the proceedings of the day in the command of the Curlew, states, to Captain Osborn, that, at one place alone, the rows of stacks were six deep and extended two miles; and it appears that, for economy in transport and storage, the straw was cut near to the ears of corn. As the ice is now forming on the shores of the Sea of Azoff, and the squadron is withdrawn, the Admiral feels it to be due to Captain Osborn to record, that, under circumstances of great difficulty, occasioned by unusually tempestuous weather, he has most ably continued through the summer, and brought to a successful close in the autumn, operations novel in their nature, and extremely detrimental to the enemy.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

Intelligence from Erzeroum to the 14th November, states, that not only had the Russians not abandoned their position before Kars, but that Mouravieff had sent forward 8,000 men to the Soghanlu Dagh, while the Erivan detachment had menaced Hassan Kaleh. The good folks of Erzeroum thought these movements portended an attack on their town, in the event of the fall of Kars. It is stated that the Turkish Government has been informed that the garrison of Kars repulsed, on the 3rd November, an attack on a village close to the Tahmas Tabia. The Russians burnt the village. From Souchum Kaleh we learn that Omar Pasha was at Sugdidi on the 18th November, in communication with Redout Kaleh; his advanced posts were on the Kutais road. The Paris journals admit into their columns telegraphic despatches from Marseilles, assigning successes to Omar Pasha in Mingrelia. In some it is said that the Ottoman generalissimo had made a general assault on Kutais; in others, he is merely said to have penetrated Mingrelia as far as Maranskaia.

According to the advices from Kars, by the Sinai, which left Constantinople November 29, the fortress was closely blockaded, without prospect of speedy relief, the small corps under Selim Pasha being unable to make head against the opposition of the Russian force which had pre-occupied the defiles. The pro-Russian journals seize the opportunity to point out that Omar Pasha's advance into Mingrelia has had no effect on the resolution of General Mouravieff; but it is too early yet to come to this conclusion.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

The *Globe* of Friday says: "The peace rumours which have been so prevalent for some days, are not entirely without foundation. . . . Russia has herself made no propositions for peace; and whether she is now disposed to offer such terms as the Western Powers would accept, is only to be estimated by her character for prudence, and her wish to form a correct appreciation of her own military resources, and those of her opponents."

The *Morning Advertiser* says:—"The majority of the British Ministry have, as we lately stated, adopted the Austrian terms as the basis of negotiations, which we believe are shortly to be commenced."

On the same subject the *Morning Herald* writes: "The proposals for peace recently submitted to the British Government have, we believe, formed the *subject of prolonged and violent discussion amongst Her Majesty's Ministers up to the very last meeting of the Cabinet.* With the general scope and character of those proposals, so far as they have transpired, our readers are already acquainted; and we have been enabled to supply information respecting certain additional demands of the allied Governments which we have reason to believe will be found correct. The *Press*, indeed, has discovered that the proposals *in solido* have been actually sanctioned by Lord Palmerston's Cabinet, and that, so endorsed, they have been returned to the French Emperor, and our contemporary concludes this piece of intelligence by the announcement that 'direct communication upon them is now opened between the Courts of Vienna and St. Petersburg.'"

Private accounts from Vienna of the 3rd, mention that the arrival of Count Stackelberg from St. Petersburg was expected with the greatest impatience, and, indeed, anxiety. Count Stackelburg is the military *attaché* to the Russian Embassy in the Austrian capital. He was sent by Prince Gortschakoff to St. Petersburg with despatches for the Emperor Alexander, and, as his departure coincided with the rumours of the renewal of negotiations for peace, it is natural to suppose that it had reference to that important object. He is expected to bring instructions of the highest importance to Prince Gortschakoff; they probably contain the reply of the Emperor Alexander to the propositions of peace made by Austria.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A despatch from Lieutenant Geneste has been published, narrating the Hango massacre, communicated by the Admiralty. The despatch is calm and business-like, but it adds little to our information on the subject. However, it brings out clearly the fact that the murderers of the boat's crew were not irregular militia, but Grenadiers of the regiment of which the King of Prussia is colonel; that Lieut. Geneste and Mr. Sullivan were bound tightly with cords after their capture, and laid on their backs in a cart; that the seamen, wounded and unwounded, were compelled to walk by the Cossacks, who struck them with their lances; and that the officers of a Russian regiment at Eckness, disgusted with the treatment of the prisoners, cut the cords that bound them. One Russian officer present at the capture shook his fist in the face of Geneste, who was at the time held by eight or ten men. It is clear from this despatch that the ambush was prepared.

A despatch from Nyborg, states that the united squadrons, with Admiral Dundas, and eleven ships of the line, passed the Belt northwards on Thursday.

"We (*Globe*) may say, *gigantic preparations are now on foot* for the ensuing campaign. If the Emperor of Russia could be brought to a full appreciation of those preparations, we should indeed have hopes of peace. We some time ago showed that, with the spring of 1856, England would be represented in the Crimea by an army of 70,000 fighting men in admirable condition, and we believe that estimate will *turn out a good deal too moderate.* She will be represented in the Baltic by a fleet of *not far short* of 250 *vessels*, of which by far the greater portion are being specially constructed for the services required of them."

Foreign and Colonial.

RUSSIA.

The telegraph brings the intelligence that "the Odessa Imperial Commercial Bank has suspended its cash-payments. Unpleasant scenes have occurred in consequence. The gendarmerie remind people, that by refusing to take bank-notes they display animosity towards the Government. The premium on silver is already twelve and fifteen per cent."

The *Czas* states positively that it is the intention of the Russian Government to effect the immediate emancipation of the serfs of the whole empire. The Emperor personally is favourable to the measure, and the land-owning aristocracy, who have been sounded, offer no opposition.

The young Count Orloff, who was wounded in the eye before Silistria, has arrived at St. Petersburg, with his mother and his physician.

At the Grand Council at St. Petersburg it has been resolved to fortify St. Petersburg and Moscow, and commissions of engineers have been appointed to make plans of defence. General Dehn is the president of the commission for St. Petersburg, and General Todleben of that for Moscow.

A letter from Vienna, dated Dec. 8, contains the following important statement, if true:—

The general levy is now going on in Poland, and the unfortunate peasants are being driven together by the Cossacks "as game at a *battue*." The *cordon* of Cossacks along the Russian frontiers towards Austria is so close, that the men are literally within hail of each other. Not ten days ago, many of the unfortunate recruits made a bold dash into the Vistula, and most of them managed to reach the Austrian territory. In the neighbourhood of the fortress of Zamoscz, 160 conscripts fled into the woods, where they probably died of cold and hunger, as they have not since been heard of. The kingdom of Poland is one great theatre of misery, but the peasants have begun to display the energy of despair, and refuse "to robot" (or labour without wages) for the proprietors of the soil, under the plea, that, as they have not hands enough to till their own land, they cannot be expected to work gratuitously for other people. "If the inhabitants of Warsaw speak the truth (says my informant), the same insubordination prevails in several of the other Russian provinces." [Perhaps this is the origin of the rumoured emancipation of the serfs.]

Russia, it is reported, has contracted a heavy loan with a house in Holland.

UNITED STATES.

The Washington, *Union*, by authority of the State department, says that Mr. Buchanan had conferred with Lord Clarendon with regard to the augmentation of the British West India squadron. Lord Clarendon stated that the squadron originated in no act unfriendly to the United States. Its object was to protect British commerce against Russian privateers said to be fitting out at American ports.

The committee appointed by the New York Chamber of Commerce to ascertain and report the facts connected with the seizure of the Maury had made their report, and the Chamber had adopted it. The report states that the character of the owners of the vessel had been needlessly assailed, owing to the want of proper inquiry of the British diplomatic agents; it asserts that the United States' Government has always strictly enforced the laws of neutrality; the British agents had not properly apologised to the owners of the Maury for the infamous impeachment against them; one of the three resolutions adopted by the Chamber on this subject is as follows:—

That the merchants, as part of the body of merchants of the United States, will uphold the Government in the full maintenance of neutrality, of the laws of the country, and we acknowledge and adopt, and always have regarded the acts of the United States for preserving its neutrality as binding in honour and conscience, as well as in law, and that we denounce those who violate them as disturbers of the peace of the world, to be held in universal abhorrence.

The New York papers publish the report of Attorney-General Cushing to Mr. Marcy on the result of his inquiries concerning the barque Maury, which concludes as follows: "Under these circumstances, it affords me pleasure to enable you to give assurances that the Cunard mail steamers may continue to enter and to leave our ports without apprehension of being captured by the Maury, and converted into Russian men-of-war for the purpose of hostilities in the East Indies."

A bill has been introduced into the Legislature of Georgia proposing to confiscate, for the benefit of owners of fugitive slaves, the debts due by citizens of Georgia to citizens of the State to which slaves may have escaped, if the authorities of that State refuse to deliver up the slaves upon claim of their rightful owners.

Nicaragua news is important. Colonel Wheeler, United States Minister, had formally recognised the filibustero Colonel Walker. General Corral, the "last armed foe" of Walker, and who surrendered and acknowledged the new order of things, had been found guilty of *treason* and shot. Espinoza had been banished, probably for a similar cause. Colonel Kinney was still at Greytown, although a number of his party had joined the democratic army, which was daily receiving reinforcements.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

With reference to the enlistment of Germans in Prussia for the British German Legion, the *Globe* says: "We have reason to believe that on the facts of the case being represented to the King of Prussia, he was pleased to pardon Mr. Curtis, and order his immediate release."

An Ultramontane journal, to resemble the *Univers* of Paris, is about to appear at Vienna.

The *Univers* states that the Pope is about to create several new Cardinals, and that M. Clement de Villecourt, Bishop of Rochelle, is to be one. But the new dignitaries are to be the first-fruits of an innovation which his Holiness has decided on introducing into the hierarchy of Rome. The Bishop of Rochelle is henceforth to reside at that city, as the Pope has determined on having a Cardinal resident there from each of the principal nations confessing the Roman Catholic faith. As their Eminences will be chosen by the Holy See, and not, as before designated, for the dignity by the Government whose subjects they happened to be, the expense of the installation of these resident Cardinals will be defrayed by the Apostolic Chamber, and not by the foreign State, as is the case on other occasions.

A letter from Paris says: "The marriage of General Canrobert with the daughter of a wealthy physician attached to the Imperial Court, is spoken of. The Emperor interests himself very much in this union."

Two shocks of earthquake were felt at Bordeaux on Wednesday evening. Each of them lasted about two seconds, and had a direction from east to west.

The *Opinione* of Turin announces the arrival there of Mr. Smith O'Brien.

As the first-fruits of the Concordat, several private Protestant schools, which had been established in Hungary without the permission of the Austrian Government, have been already closed.

A tragedy occurred near Franklin, Tenn., the week before last, which, for finished brutality, throws the recital of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* altogether into the shade. A woman, named Ellen Burder, having had her jealousy aroused by some unexplained conduct of her husband, seized one of her negro slaves, and, after tying her up, and whipping her until weary of her work, poured boiling water over her abdomen and legs until the skin was scalded off, and the fatty tissues cooked, leaving the muscles bare. The poor victim was then locked up in a smoke-house, where she remained over night, and the next day was strung up by a rope attached to one

of the smoke-house joists. When her dead body was taken down, it was found that, in addition to the other cruelties inflicted upon her, her skull had been fractured by a blow on the temple with some sharp-pointed instrument, which penetrated to the brain, and that two other gashes had been made with the same instrument on the back part of the head. The woman Burden made no attempt to escape, and manifested the utmost indifference as to the affair.—*Toronto Globe.*

The Emperor of Austria, as a token of his personal satisfaction that a Concordat has been concluded with the Papal Chair, has subscribed 250,000f. as a contribution to the monument which is to be erected on the Piazza di Spagna at Rome, in commemoration of the day on which the Papal See declared the Immaculate Conception to be one of the dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church.

Sir Hamilton Seymour arrived at Vienna on Wednesday night, and took up his quarters at the "Roman Emperor." Sir Hamilton has taken the apartments at Vienna which were occupied by M. Drouyn de Lhuys during the Conferences. Lord Bloomfield has returned to Berlin.

Count Eulenburg, an Ultra-Conservative, has been elected President of the new Prussian House of Representatives, by 187 votes. Count Schwerin, the Liberal President of the late Chamber, received 138 votes.

The Swedish order of the Seraphim, lately presented to General Canrobert, has been conferred on only one person in Austria, M. de Metternich; one in Prussia, M. de Pfuel; one in Denmark, Count de Mohckte, ex-President of the Council; and five in Russia, MM. de Nesselrode, Menschikoff, Woronzoff, Orloff, and Czernitcheff.

By the mediatory influence of France and England, the point in dispute between Sardinia and Tuscany has been adjusted.

It is supposed that the total number of Aborigines in the colony of Victoria is 2,500. No census has been taken of them.

M. Alexandre Dumas, who has become implicated by his sympathy with the French refugees, in the words of the *Daily News* correspondent, "intends to remain in Paris but a very short time, in order to bring out two dramas (one at the Vaudeville and the other at the Porte St. Martin), and to superintend the publication of a new edition of all his works, in 300 volumes, and then to travel for several years, visiting China before he comes home."

The following is the telegraphic news in anticipation of the Overland Mail: The Santal rebellion was being put down by martial law. The Bengal army had been strengthened by 6,000 men. The Governor-General was at Madras on his way to Burmah.

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE WAR.

On Tuesday, Dec. 4, Mr. Henry Richard delivered a lecture on the war at the Town Hall, Luton, Bedfordshire. The room was crowded in every part. R. Lucas, Esq., banker, took the chair. At the close of the lecture the following resolution was moved by Mr. John Everett, and seconded by Mr. Robert Howe, and carried unanimously: "That this meeting is of opinion that the present disastrous and sanguinary war should be brought to a close, and respectfully offers its support to Her Majesty's Government, in favour of the negotiations for peace, which, it is understood, are now pending." On Wednesday, Mr. Richard lectured on the same subject at the Temperance Hall, Dunstable, Mr. J. Everett in the chair. It was a large meeting; and the lecturer was listened to with great respect and interest for nearly two hours. On Thursday, Mr. Richard proceeded to Leighton-Buzzard, and addressed a numerous and intelligent audience at the Temperance Hall, J. D. Bassett, Esq., in the chair. The attention of the meeting was deep and unbroken.

Sir Stafford Northcote, at the express request of his Dudley constituents, addressed them at a public meeting on Wednesday. His main topic was the war. He was for concluding peace if Russia would own herself in the wrong, and make amends for violating public law; and he thought it highly probable that she would be well disposed to make considerable concessions for the sake of peace, and for the sake of being relieved from the state of exhaustion to which the war has brought her.

At a dinner held at Burton-upon-Trent, on Wednesday, Sir R. Peel said:—

His idea was that there was little importance to be attached to these rumours of peace. (Hear, hear.) He admitted the importance of peace, and with everyone else would be glad to see it re-established—and to this end he would say, so long as the honour of the Allies was secured, that it mattered not through whose intervention it was established, that of Austria or of a friendly power. He knew, and they all knew as well as he did, that Austria was no friend of ours. (Hear.) . . . There was the honour of our own country to be held sacred, and, therefore, he said they must not be satisfied with the bare Four Points. (Cheers.) The Crimea was no longer an integral part of Russia, and it never must be, and he would add, it never should be. (Great cheering.)

At the meeting of the Rugby and Dunchurch Conservative Agricultural Association, held at Rugby, on Wednesday, the honourable members for North Warwickshire addressed the meeting. After a reference to his own votes in Parliament, Mr. Newdegate said: He thought Lord Palmerston's the best course with respect to the war, though in the changeable state of affairs he would not pledge himself to him. He thought they would all join with him in the satisfaction he felt at the unanimous English feeling that had grown up about the war. Mr. Spooner concluded a speech by saying: He should pursue peace as his object, but not strive to obtain it until by war peace could be grounded on terms honourable to Great Britain, and safe to all, and such as he believed to be lasting. (Cheers.) If Government swerved from this object he swerved from them, but any Minister who conducted the war as the nation desired, that Minister should have his support, however he might otherwise differ from him. (Cheers.)

THE KING OF SARDINIA.

The King of Sardinia was, on Wednesday, invested with the Order of the Garter, at Windsor, with the usual ceremonies. The proceedings were throughout of the usual description, with this exception, that a new statute was read by the Chancellor of the Order, for the express purpose of admitting the King of Sardinia as a Knight, any rule or statute notwithstanding. The King wore the dark-blue and silver uniform of a Sardinian General. In the evening there was a grand banquet in the Hall of St. George, served with "the greatest magnificence;" and at its termination the Lord Steward proposed the health of the King of Sardinia, and the band played the Sardinian hymn.

On Thursday, the King rose betimes, and, accompanied by Prince Albert and the Duke of Cambridge, set out from Windsor Castle at five o'clock; and, proceeding by railway as far as Vauxhall, drove thence to the Bricklayer's Arms station, and continued his journey in a special train to Folkstone. The distance, eighty-two miles, was performed in two hours and twenty-five minutes. At Tunbridge, where the train stopped a moment, many persons had assembled; and at Folkstone, breakfast was served at the Pavilion Hotel. After the slight repast, his Majesty went on board the Government mail steamer Vivid, Prince Albert and the Duke of Cambridge parting from him at the gangway. Although the Vivid set forth in a heavy snow-storm, the King remained on deck, lifting his hat in acknowledgment of the cheers, and waving farewell to his friends on shore. We next find his Majesty in France: he landed at Boulogne at half-past eleven, thus accomplishing the journey from Windsor Castle to Boulogne in six hours and a half. At half-past one he started by the railway for Paris, which he left on Sunday morning on his return to his kingdom.

The Lord Mayor has received a letter, conveying the thanks of the King of Sardinia for the cordial and magnificent reception his Majesty had met with from the Corporation of London. The Minister presented to the Lord Mayor, at the same time, a gold snuff-box, mounted with diamonds, as a mark of consideration from his Majesty to his lordship, and a token of the high gratification experienced by the Royal visitor at the splendid manner in which the whole ceremony was performed, and the enthusiasm which was so warmly exhibited by the citizens of London.

The following was the answer given by the King of Sardinia to the address of the Protestant Associations of different sects:—

(TRANSLATION.)

Gentlemen,—I thank you for the mark of sympathy that you have come hither to give me to-day.

The reforms which have hitherto marked my reign are the most sure index by which to judge the principles which direct me; to be durable, they must advance with the spirit of the age, and be governed by the laws of prudence. I am pleased to think we agree upon the point.

It is very agreeable to me to see the efforts which I have made to assure liberty of conscience in my States worthily appreciated by the principal representatives of religious opinion in England. My subjects have equally understood my sentiments on this regard, and have shown themselves in every respect worthy of the emancipation which has been granted to them on this important point.

I take great pleasure, gentlemen, in seeing in the parity of these tendencies another bond the more between our two countries.

SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

The approach of Christmas is again heralded by the customary annual display of fat cattle at the Baker-street Bazaar. The present exhibition is generally thought not to be equal to some that have preceded it. There are, however, some oxen in this year's show which present all those marks of good breeding and careful feeding which should distinguish a first-rate beast from an ordinary animal; and, if a few are found which do not bear out this flattering encomium, the exhibition, on the whole, may fairly be described as creditable to the farmers of England. Numerically, the show is smaller than last year—a circumstance probably accounted for by the fact of the Midland Counties Exhibition of Stock commencing this day at Birmingham. The most remarkable feature in the show are the young Herefords, in which class only five animals compete, to all of which might well have been awarded a prize. The Devons although including some very fine specimens, are inferior to former years. The Scotch scarcely preserve their character. Among the short-horned oxen, the Marquis of Exeter stands pre-eminent, as the owner of a remarkably fine animal bred by himself, which carries off the gold medal as the best ox in the yard, as well as a prize of 25*l.* and a silver medal. The sheep classes are very good—more especially the Leicesters, to decide upon the relative merits of which must have been a very arduous task. The pigs are fully up to average merit. The gold medal for the best pen is awarded to Mr. John Coate, of Hammoon, near Blandford, and the Earl of Radnor and Mr. Marjoribanks are prizeholders.

Yesterday was the first public day at the club, and the attendance was exceedingly numerous and respectable. The attendance of butchers was large, and the sales good, considering that this was only the first day of the show. The Marquis of Exeter's prize ox was sold early; 100 guineas was mentioned, and judging from the prices obtained for other lots, this would not appear extraordinary. Prince Albert's Galloway fetched 50*l.*

Postscript.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 12, 1855.

The mercantile advices from the Prussian ports continue to confirm the accounts of the great exertions being made by Russia for the overland trade throughout the winter. It is also stated that she is losing no opportunity of preparing at all points of her coast such defences as may be available against the apprehended attacks next spring. According to one report, 100 vessels of various sizes had left Cronstadt after the departure of the allied squadrons, and arrived safely at Sweaborg with munitions of war, and materials for the reconstruction of hospitals, barracks, &c. The early setting in of frost and closing of the navigation would, however, prevent a repetition of the movement.

The Russian Government has ordained that, to facilitate payments from the State treasury, the normal proportion of bullion to be held by the bank against notes in circulation shall be diminished. It is feared that the payment of the interest of the public debt will be suspended.

The *Constitutionnel* says: "It has been falsely asserted that the effective of the French troops, who are to winter in the Crimea, has been reduced. This is an error. The soldiers returning from the East had been already replaced, and whole divisions were on the road to Constantinople before the Imperial Guard had quitted Sebastopol."

A Cabinet Council was held yesterday afternoon at the Foreign-office. The Ministers present were Viscount Palmerston, the Lord Chancellor, Earl Granville, the Earl of Harrowby, Sir George Grey, the Earl of Clarendon, Mr. Secretary Labouchere, Lord Panmure, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Charles Wood, the Right Hon. R. Vernon Smith, Lord Stanley of Alderley, the Right Hon. M. T. Baines, and the Duke of Argyll. The Council sat three hours.

The jury at Durham, after a deliberation of ten minutes, arrived at a verdict of Not Guilty in the case of Joseph Snaith Wooler, who stood indicted for the wilful murder of his wife. Mr. Baron Martin summed up for an acquittal in the most peremptory terms. The last words of his charge to the jury are, "It is for you to say whether you can safely come to the conclusion that the prisoner administered the arsenic. I may observe that, if I were to make a surmise, there is a person upon whom my fancy would rest rather than the prisoner." After the verdict had been delivered, Mr. Baron Martin observed that he would have interfered at an earlier stage of the trial—that is, he would have stopped the case; but he thought, upon the whole, it would be more satisfactory that it should be fully heard.

Her Majesty has commanded the publication of the sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Caird, of Errol, in Crathie Church, in October last, during Her Majesty's sojourn at Balmoral. The sermon is, says the *Aberdeen Herald*, entitled "The Religion of Common Life." It is no secret at Balmoral, that Prince Albert expressed his high satisfaction with Mr. Caird's pulpit discourse and appearance, by stating that he had not heard a preacher like him for seven years, and did not expect to enjoy a like pleasure for as long a period to come.

Admiral Dundas landed yesterday morning, at Portsmouth, from the Duke of Wellington, 131, his flag-ship, in which he arrived at Spithead on Monday night, and with Commodore Pelham, Captain of the Fleet, proceeded to the residence of the Commander-in-Chief.

From the report of the proceedings in the Bankruptcy Court, on Monday, in the case of Strahan, Paul, and Co., it appears that the liabilities of the bank are estimated at 652,593*l.*, and the assets at 127,670*l.*, showing a deficiency of 524,922*l.* The first dividend on the joint estate of the bankrupts as bankers and navy agents is to be 2s. in the pound. The amount of assets at present in hand is about 40,000*l.*

MARK-LANE, THIS DAY.

The supply of English wheat in to-day's market was chiefly composed of Monday's unsold samples. The inquiry for all kinds was so trifling that the quotations were almost nominal. Nearly 8,000 quarters wheat have arrived from abroad. Scarcely a transaction took place in that grain, at Monday's currency. We had a very dull sale for barley and malt, at the late decline. The arrival of Irish oats having been large, the oat trade was dull, at barely stationary prices. Beans, peas, and flour were excessively heavy. The top price of the best town-made flour is now 75s per 280lbs.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

English: Wheat, 2,070. Barley, 2,180. Malt, 1,65 . Oats, —. Flour, 620.

Irish: Oats, 28,130.

Foreign: Wheat, 7,770. Oats, 4,200. Flour, 1,060 sacks 8,240 barrels.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"W. B," Tower-hill.—We cannot be parties to this covert and indirect mode of censure. If notice is to be taken of the proceedings mentioned in his letter, let it be done openly, and in a fair spirit.

"Berry Woodyard."—We sincerely beg pardon for overlooking the circular he sent us. We had intended commenting on it last week, but a press of other subjects jostled it from our thoughts. But the statement is so one-sided, that, after the decision of the Braintree case, it can hardly mislead. If it be a commmon law obligation on parishioners to repair their church, it is also a common law right to refuse a rate for that purpose.

"Edmund Hart."—We met with the statement in Bannister's pamphlet on the Dulwich College charity; we think he quotes it from an official source—the report of the Charity Commissioners—but we are not sure.

Erratum.—A correspondent has called our attention to an error of some consequence in the report of the deputation to the Home Secretary relative to Burial Fees. Sir G. Grey stated, that his rule was "to leave the clergy, in relation to the *consecrated* part of a cemetery, in possession of the rights which they had previously exercised, as to fees, over the parish churchyard."

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1855.

SUMMARY.

WINTER sets in with its legitimate accompaniments—tingling cold without doors, bright faces within. The customary incentives to the latter are even reinforced by several very welcome, and partially unexpected, auxiliaries. The Smithfield cattle show is, of course, a larger and finer exhibition than at any previous Christmas; but to have no Smithfield market, contrasting its filth and barbarity with the sleek cleanliness of Baker-street Bazaar, is a blessing of which we had almost despaired. Cheap concerts, conducted by a Jullien and a Benedict, have become the regular thing; but to have Jenny Lind singing at Exeter Hall, even to an audience the more select for the high-priced tickets having been bought up by sordid dealers in art, is a national happiness. Athenæum *soirées* with an Eglinton or a Sir Robert Peel talking "vehement silliness," are no untimely or uncertain good, since they make us merrier, at least for the moment. A new work by Dickens in thirty-five thousand households, and two volumes by Macaulay in at least twenty thousand,—positively next week!—are so many family fountains of joy. And to crown all, if our prospects of peace are somewhat worse than we had hoped, we may be easy about our army: not only is no fighting going on, but none is intended; and the gallant fellows, whose predecessors were this time last year rotting like the autumn leaves, are now robust in health, well tucked up in fur, eating and drinking of the best,—and if not jovial, only from Mark Tapley's inverted sense of the influence of circumstances.

Each day's explanations relative to the new negotiations for peace, seem unhappily to diminish the chance of a pacific solution of the war during the present winter. It is now affirmed, that Count Buol has emphatically stated that Austria, in coming forward at the present moment, does not know whether the terms proposed by her are acceptable to the Czar, or will be even for a moment entertained by him. These terms are almost identical with those stated a fortnight since by the *Times*, and repeated again, as though on authority, in this morning's paper. They are as follows: That Russia should abandon her claim to the special protectorate of the Greek Church in Turkey; that the Black Sea should be regarded as a great commercial lake, from which the ships of war of all nations should be by common consent excluded; that Russia should cede so much of the territory of Bessarabia as is necessary to secure to all nations the free navigation of the Danube; that all fortresses on the shores of the Black Sea should be dismantled; and that the idea of fortifying the Aland Islands should be for ever abandoned. It is also affirmed that in case of these overtures being refused, Austria will break off diplomatic communication with Russia, and withdraw her ambassador from St. Petersburg. This step would, however, imply nothing further. Indeed, it may be assumed that, under no circumstances, would Austria be induced to take up a really hostile attitude towards her former ally. The tone of the Russian journal, *Le Nord*, does not at all encourage the hope that the new points will meet with acceptance at St. Petersburg. "Russian pride," it is said, "will assuredly not go so far."

From information in another column it will be seen that the whole of this vast metropolis is to be shortly canvassed, with the view of replenishing its Sunday-schools with the children of the working classes. The work is commenced under the auspices of the Sunday-school Union; and the well-matured plan submitted to the meeting held last Tuesday, but more especially the earnest, practical spirit exhibited, augur well for the success of the great enterprise. It is supposed that there are about 200,000 children in London, who are at present excluded from the benefit of Sunday-school instruction; and the reasonable expectation is entertained that a considerable portion of these poor benighted juveniles may be brought under religious influences. It is highly gratifying to know that the Church Sunday-school Union is cordially aiding the experiment; which will therefore carry with it the heartfelt good wishes of the entire Christian community, and the co-operation of all who have it in their power to render assistance.

The prosecution of the Kingstown Bible burners has gone off much like other Hibernian State trials, which are usually half comedy and half compromise. Father Pecherine, having duly traversed, is indicted on several counts, and stands up between an array of five counsel on either side. Mr. Attorney-General Keogh speaks as with the fear of the Athlone clergy before his eyes,—curiously interspersing with expressions of reverence for the Scriptures, in whatever version, an argument that would apply to the Koran in Turkey, and even to a saucer in China; an argument that at the best places Christianity upon a level with the constable. Mr. Queen's Counsel O'Hagan, on the other hand, promises to treat the question as one of simple fact and intention—Did the priest knowingly order the public burning of Bibles?—but inserts in the middle of his speech an elaborate eulogy on the care which the Catholic Church has taken to collect, preserve, and circulate the sacred books! The witnesses on either side seemed to have been chosen for their ignorance on the only point that was vital; the Judge did but elaborate the Attorney-General's anomalies; and the jury could do nothing but acquit. But the crowds collected in and around the court gave to the affair its true significance. Within, a studied but decorous sham was carried on; gentlemen fought with pointless weapons. Without, exultants or disappointed fanatics vented their passions in a (metaphorical) application of cudgels to each other's heads. It was the old rancorous animosity of Orangemen and Papists that had been kindled in the chapel-yard of Kingstown.

The reports of our English criminal assizes have seldom had a more melancholy interest than during the last week. While a poor drunken wretch, convicted of the murder of his wife, yet lay in Newgate, under sentence of death—now, happily, remitted—at Liverpool, at Taunton, and at Durham, three others, in very different stations of life, were being tried on similar charges. Of these, one has been pronounced of unsound mind,—another, not guilty. The case last mentioned is extraordinary, and only the more mysterious, from the searching examination which it has undergone. Mrs. Wooler, the wife of a gentleman with whom she had long and happily lived, dies, after a short illness, characterised by all the symptoms of poisoning by arsenic, traces of which are actually found in her body. It is rarely that circumstantial evidence points so strongly to any man as to Mr. Wooler—yet every one acquiesces in his acquittal. Of all the persons who had access to his wife's chamber, on none rests suspicion of intentional poisoning. But what if the medical men themselves administered, in error, the fatal mineral, symptoms of whose action they observed to each other long before the issue, and concealed until all was over? Their conduct is marked by the Judge as "reprehensible." Public feeling may yet demand that it be exposed to a much heavier sentence.

NEGOTIATIONS AND PROSPECTS.

HITHERTO, the public remain very much in the dark respecting the negotiations for peace which are unquestionably in progress. With whom did they originate? Under whose auspices are they being conducted? What are the terms proposed? Has Russia exhibited any disposition to concede them? These, and such as these, are the questions which are far more eagerly put than satisfactorily answered. Our information, derived from sources we have usually found reliable, leads us to regard the following statements in the light of facts. It is a mistake, then, we believe, to look upon the new basis of pacification, as originating with Austria. On the contrary, we are led to refer its construction to our ally, the Emperor of the French. As his project, we believe, it was submitted to the consideration of the British Cabinet, in which it was keenly discussed, and underwent some modification. Subsequently it was propounded to the Government of Vienna, by whom, we understand, it was cordially approved. Austria engaged to lay it before Russia; but whether in her own name, or at the instance of the two maritime Powers, we are unable to ascertain. It is on this mission that Count Stackelberg, the military *attaché* to the Russian Embassy at Vienna, is now absent from his post. He was despatched to St. Petersburg by Prince Gortschakoff, and his return is awaited in the capital of the Austrian empire with great anxiety.

This outline of diplomatic proceedings, if correct, as we have reason to believe it is, throws light on several incidents which appeared, at the moment of their occurrence, not a little remarkable. It can scarcely have escaped the notice of those who are observant of such matters, that the first rumours of a decidedly pacific tenor came direct from Paris, not Vienna, and the speech of the Emperor Napoleon, at the closing of the Universal Exhibition, was interpreted here as a significant warning to Austria that she would consult her own interests by a somewhat more active co-operation with the Allies. No one, perhaps, is more sensible of this than Austria herself. The war brings her no commercial advantages—the maintenance of her armed neutrality is ruinously expensive to her—and the preparations of the Allies for the next campaign will require so large a disposition of the Russian forces, already miserably thinned, on the borders of the Baltic, as would enable Austria to assume a more determined attitude, without fear of being suddenly overwhelmed. These circumstances corroborate our information that the terms of peace originated with France, and were eagerly adopted by the Austrian Cabinet. May not a knowledge of this fact have influenced the *Times*, two or three of whose leading articles are, on any other hypothesis, unaccountable? Why else did that journal go out of its way to assail Marshal Pelissier, and why did it read a lecture to *Austria* about cooler ardour, and impatience at the prolongation of the war? If the Emperor Napoleon's plan of pacification was then under discussion in the British Cabinet, and if, at that moment, modifications of it were being pressed on the Emperor's mind, we can well understand why the *Times*, supposed to represent public opinion in England, should be prompted to take a covert course which should lead the Emperor to suspect that concurrence with the alterations proposed by our Ministers was the only chance of carrying his plan. Anxiously as we believe he desires peace, he would probably be unwilling to break off his alliance with England upon so comparatively narrow a difference as that which had sprung up between his Government and ours.

What the proposed terms really are, or in what particulars they have been modified by the Palmerston Administration, we have no other means of conjecturing than are available to the public generally. The *Morning Post*, which has always been in the Premier's confidence, says: "There can be no mistake about them. Not a Russian ship in the Black Sea—not a Russian fort at Sebastopol. No Muscovite gripe on the very throat of the Danube. No more protectorates and interferences—no more overawing, because no more means of menacing weaker neighbours.

These main terms, settled in a treaty, secured by material guarantees, would, there is not a doubt, secure peace, if Russia would yield to them." What is concealed beneath the term "material guarantees," we are unable to divine, unless it be a strip of Bessarabia along the north of the Danube; but in other respects, the conditions can only be regarded as a new and enlarged edition of the celebrated Four Points.

It would seem but gratuitous labour to speculate on the entertainment which Russia will give to these proposals, when a few days, perhaps a few hours, will furnish a decisive solution of the problem. And yet it is difficult to abstain altogether from glancing over the *pros* and *cons* of probability. Present *appearances* are against her submission to these conditions. It is given out that the Czar, since his return from the Crimea, takes a much more hopeful view of his country's affairs. The activity with which he is strengthening every assailable point in his empire, and especially his determination to fortify Moscow and St. Petersburg, indicate his willingness to try the hazards of a third campaign. His success, moreover, in negotiating a heavy loan at Amsterdam, will relieve him, for the moment, of financial embarrassment. That he is driving on his conscriptions to an unparalleled extent of cruelty, particularly in Poland, argues unfavourably for his pacific intentions—and, inasmuch as he is said to have determined (by way of giving some compensation to the bulk of his people for the hardships they are forced to endure) upon the abolition of serfdom, and that, too, it is reported, with the consent of his nobles, it would seem clear that he is preparing for a gigantic and desperate struggle.

But, on the other hand, the very magnitude of the sacrifices Russia is gathering herself up to encounter, proves the deep sense she has of imminent peril. Possibly, she may not be so well assured of final success, as not to be glad of exchanging her doubtful chances for somewhat stringent terms of immediate peace. She can hardly conceal from herself that as her glory wanes, many nations which are now on-lookers merely, will join the confederacy against her. She may have no fear of Austria just at this moment—but even Austria, she must be aware, will fling out her hoofs at the disabled lion. The attitude of Sweden and Denmark towards her is anything but reassuring. Another campaign will probably prove more disastrous to her in the Baltic, than those which have preceded it have already done in the Black Sea. The suspension of cash payments by the bank at Odessa, a pretty certain harbinger of like disasters in other parts of the empire, reveals something of the internal convulsions which are at hand—and the rumbling discontent of the people which it has been deemed necessary to appease, even at the cost of the emancipation of the serf, must have indicated to the Government at St. Petersburg, the possibility of an explosion. All things considered, we shall not be overwhelmed with astonishment if Russia accepts the somewhat humbling present in place of the ruinous future.

Russia, however, is always subtle in diplomacy. Prompt rejection or absolute acceptance she will, no doubt, avoid, if possible. Whether the Allies will allow her to temporise through the winter is questionable—whether, if they did, the chances of such a peace as they propose would be increased, is uncertain. On the whole, we are less sanguine than we were a fortnight since. But our desires are equally strong, and our hope and prayer still is, that He in whose hands are the hearts of monarchs, will dispose them to a speedy termination of the present terrible contest.

THE SEWAGE QUESTION, AND ITS ARBITERS.

Few of us are too young to remember the rise of the great metropolitan drainage question, but who of us hopes to be old enough to see its conclusion? It dates from that prolific era of social changes in which Henry Brougham was elevated to the Peerage, and Edward Chadwick installed at Somerset House. Poor-laws, corn-laws, criminal-laws, game-laws, currency-laws, sanitary-laws, became almost instantly, and all at once, subjects of agitation and objects of hope. With a solitary exception, these half-dozen questions have been either settled or forgotten. A new poor-law has covered up, if it has not cured, the pauperism that was a devouring as well as an uncomely sore. The repeal of the corn-laws has softened the rigour of poor-law repression and the barbarities of game-preserving landlords. We have nearly given up hanging or transporting adult criminals, and are busy in reforming their children. But after twenty years of incessant discussion and immense expenditure on the very first process necessary to the health of the metropolis, the principle on which that process should be conducted is still to be settled.

We are not going over again the wearisome history of the London drainage question; nor even to explain, in detail, its present very critical position. These careful and timely, though distasteful, services have been well performed by the publication named below.* In a sixpenny pamphlet, an intelligent, practical, and public-spirited gentleman has effectually combatted the prejudice which still lingers in some influential, though ill-informed, minds against "municipal organisation for sanitary purposes," as "a mushroom growth, the spawn of an over-civilization, based on no historical precedents, and having no deeper root than the amiable but visionary theories of a few ingenious amateurs." He shows, by a series of exact, though unostentatious, references, that at every successive stage in the growth of this great city, new powers were granted by the Crown for the performance of sanitary works,—that it is the want of intelligent, faithful, and harmonious administrators of these powers which has necessitated their revision,—and that it is by no mysterious or insurmountable obstacles the work has been delayed. From his brief but careful narrative of the six centralized Metropolitan Sewers' Commissions instituted between 1847 and 1854, it is plain that these obstacles are mainly two—first, the absence of adequate powers; secondly, the conflict of rival interests. The former difficulty did not greatly obstruct the last commission, which also made some progress towards overcoming the latter. The commission may be said to have consisted of three elements—the professional, the amateur, and the representative. The chairman and engineers on the commission were violent partizans of a system of drainage magnificent, but costly—Mr. F. O. Ward, the non-professional advocate of a scheme much less imposing, but only half the cost—such gentlemen as Mr. Thwaites and Mr. Offer, representatives of a public without interest or prejudice, but anxious for the early and effectual adoption of one scheme or the other. It is a presumption in favour of Mr. Ward's plan, that he obtained the support of these last-named gentlemen in his preliminary demand for a fair examination of his theory, so far as it had been experimented upon; and that he constantly co-operated with them in the practical, common-sense steps thus described by Mr. Thwaites:—

> In November, 1854, they ordered a copy to be printed of all general orders as to house drainage and sewers, and having carefully examined them, set about brushing away the cobwebs of obsolete legislation, and accommodating their rules to the wants of their fellow-citizens. Finding, in addition to the restrictions already named, an order enforcing the payment of a contribution of 5 per cent. on the rated value, on all houses applying for drainage, which appeared to press with peculiar severity on the poorer classes of tenements, and considering that their duty as commissioners consisted in promoting rather than in prohibiting drainage, they did not hesitate, on the motion of Mr. Offor, totally to repeal the law requiring contribution, and throw open the whole of the existing public sewers to the use of the public, without let or hindrance.

Their predecessors had descended to furtive examinations of the pipe drainage, in several of the towns where it was in use,—and having thus obtained reports condemnatory of the scheme, had gone to great expense in circulating them. The new commission caused fresh and fair examinations to be made,—the result of which, says Mr. Thwaites, "was as favourable to pipe sewers, as the previous one had been condemnatory: the sewers reported to have failed were found in working order, and the stoppages and deposit to be the result of partial and local causes, readily explained and as readily corrected." And having brought the history of the question to this point, he submits it, in its practical and ultimate shape, to the parties most vitally interested, and now its real arbiters.

> It is of special importance to remember, that notwithstanding the endeavours of interested persons to make a party question of it for purposes of their own, it is really one which concerns only the rate-payers. Shall it cost 30*l.* to drain a first-class house, or shall it cost 10*l.*? Shall the drainage of a fourth-class cottage cost 10*l.* or 4*l.*? These are the points raised, and which they, the rate-payers, will not find it very difficult to answer. Neither are the above extreme cases; on the contrary, from actual instances, much more glaring contrasts might be cited, as occurred at Rotherhithe, where the system of drainage required by the engineer would have amounted to nearly half the value of the leaseholders' interest in the property.

The rate-payers are threatened with an expenditure of at least three millions on works which may rival those of Imperial Rome in stupendousness and stability, but which may also prove, like them, as ultimately useless and cumbrous as they are complex and unscientific. On the other hand, they are offered an effectual attainment of the same end at a cost of one million and a half, with the prospect of a further saving, and even of a source of revenue, in the employment upon the soil of the refuse carried from their dwellings. "Drain your streets and houses, your rain-water and your kitchen slops, into arterial tunnels, for conveyance to the Thames at Barking," say the engineers. "Catch the rain-water in pipes, and carry off your sewage to the farm," says Mr. Ward. The latter proposition has about it the beauty of a principle as well as the recommendation of economy; and if the select vestries, at their meeting this day, do not elect to the Central Board gentlemen pledged to give to a proposal thus moved and seconded a favourable hearing, London will have gained little by the act for its better local management.

* "A Sketch of the History and Prospects of the Metropolitan Drainage Question." By John Thwaites, one of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers.

MERCANTILE MORALS AND THEIR CONTRAST.

It is but a few months since the failure of a London banking-house, and the exposure of its principals, gave a double shock to the serenity and self-respect of mercantile society; and already a succession of such shocks has been experienced. Strachan, Paul, and Bates were respectively fashionable, religious, and business-like: each in the enjoyment of a special reputation, and jointly constituting a most trustworthy firm. One of the three is proved to have parted with securities entrusted to the keeping of the house; and his nominal associates are condemned, with him, to the extreme punishment of common felons. It is presently urged, on behalf of Bates, that he never was the partner of Strachan and Paul—as little in business as in crime; that he was, in fact, only head clerk to the banking-house, sharing the dignity of partnership without its powers, and therefore exempt from its responsibilities. But it is admitted that the concession of this nominal dignity was with intent to deceive; and that Mr. Bates was an accomplice in this fraudulent trading with his good name, if not in the more flagitious unrealities to which he thus helped to give a fair show. Meanwhile, a series of similar, though less stupendous, insolvencies come to light: the bankruptcy and the criminal courts do justice each after their fashion; and the scene suddenly shifts to a meeting of infuriate railway shareholders, doing wild justice upon directors believed to have jobbed away hundreds of thousands of pounds—the gains of successful tradesmen, the savings of laborious doctors or lawyers, perhaps of the inheritance of helpless gentlewomen.

In all these cases, what is revealed to the eye that looks deeper than the official balance-sheet? What is the malady discovered by the moralist, and the sham disclosed to the satirist? There must be something more than negligent book-keeping, or misfortune in business—something worse than individual recklessness, and something more subtle than deliberate imposture. So few men are either fools or knaves, in a state of society dependent for existence on a general preponderance of shrewdness and honesty, that so many bankruptcies argue a latent condition of mind and morals not definable by extreme terms. Suppose that we designate that condition by the phrase "commercial conventionalism,"—and that we deduce the characteristics of that condition from the occasional revelations of commercial society. Suppose that we take, as a moderate illustration, the fact that the self-same shareholders who now execrate the unsuccessful jobbery of Mr. Waddington, adulated the great originator of railway jobbery—absolutely worshipped the image whose head was gold, until the feet of clay crumbled under the weight of iron and brass. No one supposed that the extraordinary dividends distributed by George Hudson were fairly obtained; the veriest Lord Softpate who ever astonished by his perfumed presence the vulgar hucksters of the share-market, was conscious of a juggle, and hoped to sell out ere the game was up. And there can be no doubt that many an associate of the fashionable Strachan, or the pious Paul—many a fellow-trader, or companion at the dinner-table, had detected their difficulties, and shunned their acceptances, long before they ceased to smile or the painted bubble, fraught as it was with worse than the contents of a bomb-shell. From which illustrations of commercial conventionalism, we cannot but argue, that our modern mercantile classes adopt in earnest the ironical precept of the ancient satirist—"Get money; get it how you can, but get;" the practical influence of which would be to obliterate all mental distinctions between modes of aggrandisement, save those which the finger of the law has written in the dust of the felon's dock.

Were we asked to prescribe a remedy for this great social disease, we should certainly not prescribe the amputations and ligatures for which some are clamorous. We would neither tighten the grasp of the creditor upon his failing fellow-trader, nor increase the penalties of detected fraud. Our belief is, that property is already inordinately protected by legislation,—and that the more honour you pay to the golden calf, in the form of provision for its security, the more you tempt its worshippers to trample on each other. We would purify the mercantile morality of our age by exhibiting its embodied contrast. We would diminish the lust of money by making money of less worth. Wealth must ever be the purchaser of luxury,—but it need not

ever be the measure of distinction, which is usually far more valued. Let the test of public consideration be the use of wealth, not its possession,—and soon will our traders cease to compete with each other, even to the overthrow of all native barriers against wrong, in the pursuit of wealth itself. They are not charged with covetousness, nor hard-heartedness, nor self-indulgence. They are commonly both laborious and liberal; cheerful tax-payers, and generous alms-givers. Forty years out of fifty they deny themselves all but the comforts of civilized life,—and for the rest of their lives, feel their riches rather a burden than a pleasure. They delight to be spoken of as rich,—and therefore they become rich. It is the necessity of a commercial community.

But it is not the necessity of a Christian community, however intensely commercial. The Italian and Dutch Republics produced splendid specimens of the contrast at which we have hinted. London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow, can boast some illustrious exceptions. A small midland county town of England has just lost one such. George Gill, of Nottingham, was the son of a village curate, and was apprenticed to a hosier. Twenty years of application as a shopkeeper enabled him to start as a commission agent and cotton merchant. He made money by these occupations, but not more rapidly or largely than hundreds in that and the neighbouring towns. Nevertheless, he was beloved by whole classes of his countrymen, is commemorated by several buildings in Nottingham, was honoured by a public funeral, and is mourned by all who ever heard his name. And why? Simply because he used his moderate wealth to do good in the best ways and to the largest numbers. While yet a young man and a busy man, he connected himself with a despised sect and an extreme party. He worshipped in a Friends' Meeting-house, and spoke from Radical platforms. He did not shrink from municipal offices, yet refused to purchase their honours by even conniving at corruption. He founded a People's College, a People's Hall, and a Working Man's Retreat. He gave munificently to public objects, and dispensed on every hand his private charities. He was consequently distinguished, honoured, and beloved. Can any man of us all desire more? Would any seek it by an easier road?

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

The visit of the Marquis of Lansdowne to Lord John Russell's new residence near Stroud, and Lord Palmerston's sojourn for a few days at Woburn Abbey, the seat of the Duke of Bedford, has given rise to a rumour, that some negotiation is on foot for the re-entry of the Whig leader into the Cabinet. Some months ago, it was stated the Committee of Council on Education would, ere long, be superseded by an Educational Department, to be presided over by a responsible Secretary of State. It is believed that the scheme will be carried out during the ensuing session, and that Lord John Russell will be induced to accept the office of Minister of Education, with a seat in the Cabinet. By this means, the noble lord will, it is thought, be enabled to hold a position in the Ministry commensurate with his dignity, and the Premier to secure that additional parliamentary strength which the large personal following of the ex-President of the Council is able to ensure.

HENRY VINCENT'S LECTURES.

Mr. Vincent has just concluded his six lectures on the Protestant Reformation in England, in the Hall of the Institution, Northampton. The hall was densely crowded, and the ante-chamber had to be thrown open the last three nights to contain the people, and at the concluding lecture crowds went away from inability to gain entrance. It was pleasing to find that the audiences represented all parties and sects in the town, and the most enthusiastic applause greeted all the illustrations given of the continuous and hard fought battle for civil and religious liberty. Mr. Vincent addressed two crowded meetings in the manufacturing village of Long Buckly, on the Tendencies of Society in Great Britain; and at Kettering, gave two lectures on the War and Administrative Reform, to large meetings in the Corn Exchange; the Revs. Messrs. Toller and Mursell in the chair. The meetings passed off most successfully.

Several murders and attempts to murder are reported in the Irish papers. At Tallow, near Waterford, one Cronican complained that the cattle of a neighbour had strayed upon his land. He was set upon and killed; and a Coroner's Jury have found a verdict against William Conway, his mother and sister, owners of the straying cattle. At Cavanreagh, in Tyrone, M'Collison, a farmer, has been shot dead in his cottage: three persons are in custody. At Draperstown, Derry, the wife of a Scripture reader has been shot at. In Armagh County, Grant, a small farmer, has been murdered on the road at night, and his wife much injured by the assassin. One Muckian is in custody. Murray, a labourer, has been nearly beaten to death, near Newtownards.

THE BIBLE-BURNING CASE.

The Dublin Commission Court opened on Wednesday. The chief case of interest was the trial of Father Pecherine and James Hamilton, on the charge of burning the Bible at Kingstown. In charging the Grand Jury, Mr. Justice Crampton gave great prominence to this case. He characterised the Bible-burning as profane, nay, blasphemous. The Christian religion is part of the law of the land. The Court of Queen's Bench in England has declared that it would not suffer it to be debated "whether to write against Christianity in general was not an offence punishable in the courts of temporal law." All persons scoffing at the Holy Scriptures, or wilfully exposing the Bible to contempt or ridicule, are guilty of an offence. "It matters not, in this point of view, whether the book held up to public scorn (if such be the fact) be a Hebrew, Greek, Latin, or English Bible—whether it be the authorised version, as the version of the Church of England is commonly called, or the Douay version, or any other translation, if the object be to hold up the volume to public execration." Distinctions between the authorised version and the Roman Catholic Bible, are weak and wicked. All witnesses, with some statutable exceptions, all juries, all officers, are sworn upon the Bible. True bills were found against Pecherine and Hamilton.

Friday and Saturday were occupied by the Court of Commission in Dublin in trying the indictment against Father Pecherine.

The Attorney-General having stated the case for the prosecution, Christopher Duff, a boy about fourteen years, was the first witness examined. He deposed to having been employed by Father Pecherine with his barrow, and to the Father having given orders for the burning of the books, which, "he thought," included a Testament. They included the *Family Herald*, some numbers of "The Mysteries of London," *Reynolds's Miscellany*, and a "History of England." Henry Lawson gave the following evidence:

Stood at the back gate of his mistress's house, and saw two barrows of books coming towards the chapel. Saw Byron's Poems, some tracts, and on the top of one of the barrows a small Testament. Saw also in the same barrow a small Prayer-book. Saw also a Testament. Saw the title-page of the Testament. On the top of the second barrow he saw an old Bible; saw the words "Holy Bible" printed on the back of it. A policeman lifted up that Bible. That man's name is Halpin. He laid it down again. Knew Father Pecherine, and saw him there when the fire was burning. He had some papers in his hand which he was tearing. He threw them on the ground, but could not say whether he threw them near enough to the fire to be burned.

Charles Lawson, brother to the last witness, saw two barrows wheeled into the chapel-yard. Saw Meehan take up a Testament. Saw a Bible with the words, "Holy Bible," on the back. Picked up bits of paper on the edge where the fire was. Those bits of paper were pieces of the Protestant Bible. This witness's evidence was rather shaken by cross-examination.

Mr. Darkin:—

Holds the appointment of Sub-Inspector of Factories, and resides at Kingstown. Was taking his usual walk before breakfast. Heard something about wheelbarrows and Bibles that were going into the chapel-yard to be burned. A crowd of boys followed the barrows. There were a great many books in them, generally with green covers, such as are to be had at railway stations. Took up a volume with brown binding. It was somewhat old. That book was a Bible. Saw, also, a small book in black binding, with gilt edges. It was a Testament. When he opened it, and saw what it was, he put it back again into the barrow.

John Halpin, police-constable:—

Was on duty at the chapel. Recollects seeing barrows wheeled into the chapel-yard. Father Pecherine was in the yard. The barrows contained books and penny journals. Saw the *Family Herald* and *Reynolds's Miscellany*. There were also bound books. One of the boys took a bound book out. It was a Bible. Saw by gilt letters on the back it was a Bible. Saw a Testament with the print on the back. Took it up and laid it down again. Saw Father Pecherine then at the barrows. He went with the boys. Something passed between him and the boys which he did not hear. The books were lighted by the boys with matches. Father Pecherine was present when the boys lighted the books. Cross-examined: Saw persons take up books and throw them down again. Had not the Bible in his hand. Saw it in the hands of a boy, and saw "Bible" upon the back of it. Saw a Testament in one of the barrows. Saw "Testament" on the back of it.

The Rev. Robert Wallace gave the following evidence:—

Saw a pile of cinders of books which had been burned. The books were small books resembling small pocket Bibles, but cannot swear positively they were so. One of the boys took a portion of a book out of the fire and gave it into my hand. That portion of a book was part of the Holy Scriptures, and was part of the Book of Deuteronomy and Joshua. [Witness produced the charred parts.] Compared them with a copy of the authorised version of the Holy Scriptures, and found them to correspond. Cross-examined: Witness was a clergyman of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and had been stationed at Kingstown since July, 1854. Has not taken any part in the prosecution beyond giving his evidence. On his oath he saw boys kicking books into the fire. He could not swear that they were Bibles. The books appeared like Bibles, but could not say, as he did not handle them. Got the charred part of the Bible from a boy, but did not know his name. Gave several portions of it away. In his opinion, the part of the Bible produced was portion of a small duodecimo Bible. It never left his possession.

Rev. A. Synge, a clergyman at Kingstown, received several portions of the Scriptures, which were portions of the authorised version (leaves produced). They are parts of Ezra, Samuel, and Kings. They all appear to have been in the fire. Can swear they are portions of the authorised version, and correspond with the Bible in my hand.

The case for the Crown closed with this witness's evidence. Mr. O'Hagan then proceeded to address the jury for the defence. At the close of his speech, which was of considerable length, the trial was adjourned.

On Saturday, the trial was resumed, when the case for the defence was proceeded with. Mr. O'Hagan contended that an acquittal legally would amount to nothing if his client were not also acquitted morally of having been guilty of the crime laid to his charge. He came there to defend a Catholic priest, and the Crown having deprived him of the opportunity of giving the evidence by which he would establish his innocence, he, after consulting with his learned brethren, arrived at the conclusion that they would offer no evidence in the case, but leave it wholly in the hands of the jury.

The Attorney-General said that in that case he would not advise his learned friend the Solicitor-General to offer any observations to the jury.

Baron Greene then proceeded with his charge to the jury. If the jury believed the evidence, the fact of the burning seemed to be very clearly established, and it was entirely the province of the jury to say whether or not it was done by the traverser or done by his direction and concurrence. It was not necessary that he should burn books with his own hand to establish the offence laid to his charge. Did he or did he not know at the time the books were consigned to the charge of the boys for the purpose of being wheeled to the chapel-yard to be burned, the heap contained other than the books and publications referred to? The real substantial question at issue was, did the jury believe that Father Pecherine knowingly or wilfully committed those books to be burned. Supposing that Father Pecherine did not know or was not aware of the Bibles being in the heap, of course the jury would acquit him of the charge; but if, on the contrary, the jury were satisfied that he was cognisant of the existence of the Bibles in the heap, either at his lodgings or in the chapel-yard, however painful the duty would be, they should convict him of the charge that he knowingly committed the offence of burning the Holy Scriptures intentionally. And, if the jury had a doubt, the principle of our laws was to give the accused the benefit of that doubt and acquit him.

The jury retired shortly after one o'clock, and the boy, John Hamilton, the other traverser, was put forward; but enough of jurors of the county panel not being in court, the trial was postponed to Monday.

The Attorney-General stated, during the discussion, that the two traversers would have been tried together, but that the Rev. Father Pecherine, being a foreigner, could, had he wished, have claimed a jury, comprising one-half of foreigners.

At a quarter to three o'clock, the jury, having been in their room about an hour and a half, returned to their box. Amidst the most profound silence and the deepest anxiety, the foreman handed down the issue paper to the Clerk of the Crown, who, having called over the names of the jury, declared that they found the traverser, Rev. Vladimir Pecherine, "Not Guilty."

The announcement of acquittal, by a mixed jury of Protestants and Roman Catholics, was received with the most rapturous cheering from all parts of the court. The crowd rushed from the galleries and other parts of the court to congratulate the reverend traverser, and the scene was altogether a very exciting one. In the streets the popular enthusiasm was displayed by loud cheers, but order was perfectly preserved by the police.

At the sitting of the Commission Court on Monday morning, traverser John Hamilton was put on trial, charged with having torn and burned copies of the New Testament at the late burning of books at Kingstown, and was acquitted. The verdict was received with loud cheers by a crowded court.

A number of houses situate in the lanes and bye-streets in the neighbourhood of the Commission Court were illuminated on Saturday night by way of commemorating the escape of Father Pecherine from the grasp of the Irish law officers. The exultation of the lower orders at the result of the trial beggars all powers of description.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.

The adjourned half-yearly meeting of the Eastern Counties Railway Company to receive the report of the Committee of Investigation was held on Friday; Mr. David Waddington in the chair. From beginning to end all was storm, strife, and confusion. The shareholders fiercely resented the appearance of Mr. Waddington in the chair. The secretary was not allowed to read the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Box suggested that Mr. Waddington should not be permitted to act as chairman. Mr. Waddington, grounding himself on his legal right—confirmed by the company's solicitor—held his place, but vainly demanded a hearing. He was allowed to account for the absence of five members of the direction: Mr. Smythe was suffering from the effects of a serious accident; Mr. Packe was laid up with the gout; Lord Alfred Paget was in attendance on the Queen; and Mr. Fane had addressed to the secretary a letter explanatory of his absence. Mr. Waddington persisted in speaking; pledging himself to answer the charges in the report; and concluded by moving an adjournment till the 3rd of January. Mr. E. Ball, M.P. asked whether one who knew in his conscience that he had clean hands would require seven days or seven hours to answer the accusations? Mr. Pulley moved that the report should be received and adopted. Mr. M'Lauren moved that the report should be received,

and the meeting stand adjourned till the 3rd January. The amendment was negatived by a vast majority, and the original resolution carried. A poll was demanded, and granted; a step on the part of the chairman, followed by twenty minutes of uproar, during which nobody heard what anybody said. Mr. Pulley then moved that Mr. Waddington should no longer be chairman of the company; that his pay should cease from that day; and that he should be requested to resign. On this Mr. Waddington made a stand. He would answer the charges minutely, explicitly, and deliberately; but he required time; he would not abandon his position; let their resolution be what it might, he was their legal chairman until next February. The resolution was carried. Next, the Committee of Investigation was ordered to continue its labours until February next; to confer with the directors, and make suggestions for the administration of the company's affairs. It was resolved "that no order from Mr. Waddington be attended to from the present time." Here again Mr. Waddington made an ineffectual opposition. The directors who are proved not to have watched over the interests of the shareholders were to be requested to resign; and votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Bruce, Mr. Broadbent, Mr. Margrave, and Mr. Simpson. At the close of the proceedings the demand for a poll on the first resolution was withdrawn, and the meeting dispersed in noise.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The Court left Windsor yesterday for Osborne, there to remain about ten days.

All doubts respecting the rumoured dissolution of Parliament are set at rest by the decision of the Privy Council held at Windsor on Friday, by whom it was ordered, that Parliament should be further prorogued from the 11th December until the 31st January, and that a proclamation should be issued summoning Parliament to meet on the 31st January. The proclamation was issued on Monday summoning Parliament for "the despatch of divers urgent and important business."

At an audience previous to the Council, the Duke of Argyll had delivered to Her Majesty the Privy Seal; and at the Council the Queen placed it in the keeping of the Earl of Harrowby, who took the oath and his place at the board. Mr. Matthew Talbot Baines took the oath of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Lord Palmerston and Sir George Grey had audiences of the Queen.

When Prince Albert, the Duke of Cambridge, and Lord Panmure parted from the King of Sardinia, they returned for a brief space to the Pavilion Hotel, and thence rode to Shorncliffe camp. There six thousand men of the German Legion—cavalry, infantry of the line, and rifles—were drawn up in a hollow square, and reviewed. Prince Albert, with brief speeches in German, presented them with four colours. Next the officers were individually introduced to Prince Albert. Prince Albert returned at once by railway to Windsor Castle.

The Marquis of Lansdowne went on Thursday on a visit to Lord John Russell, at his residence in Gloucestershire. Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston left London on Friday, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire. Lord John has gone to visit Laverstoke House, the seat of M. Portal, Esq., M.P., where he is expected to remain for several days.

A paragraph having appeared in the papers to the effect that Mr. Scrope did not again intend to solicit the suffrages of the Stroud electors at the next dissolution of Parliament, we are assured that such a report is entirely void of foundation.

The Lord Advocate of Scotland has, it is said, agreed to bring in a bill for the reform of the Scottish Universities next session of Parliament, provided that the various parties more immediately interested shall agree on the heads of a feasible and practical measure.

The Colonelcy of the 8th Hussars has been conferred on the Earl of Lucan.

The Queen has consented to sit for a colossal marble bust to Mr. Noble, the sculptor, to be presented by Alderman Barnes to the Manchester Corporation, in commemoration of Her Majesty's visit to that city in 1851.

We understand it is currently reported that, in the event of an election, Mr. William Entwistle, formerly member for the Southern Division of Lancashire, intends to offer himself as a candidate for the representation of this city in Parliament. — *Manchester Examiner.*

A reprieve has been granted the convict Lorden, now in Newgate, and who was sentenced to death for hmurder of his wife in a fit of drunken jealousy.

Mr. Locke, M.P., is recovering. The Bishop of London is also better.

The *British Friend* reports that the late Mr. Alexander Morrison, of Frimley, in Surrey, has bequeathed the sum of 300*l.* to the Peace Society, and 100*l.* to each of the Friends who composed the deputation to the Emperor of Russia in 1853 on the impending war —viz., Joseph Sturge, Robert Charleton, and Henry Pease, and also an estate, each valued at about 1,500*l.*, to John Bright and Richard Cobden.

The clergy of the diocese of Norwich are about to try the experiment of circulating useful, instructive, and religious books among the labouring classes of the rural districts, by means of licensed hawkers.

Miscellaneous News.

A Committee of the Norwich Town Council have requested the Mayor to call the attention of the Board of Trade to the state and management of the Eastern Counties Railway, and to demand an official inquiry.

A lecture on the recent discoveries in Assyria and Babylonia was delivered before the University of Oxford, on Wednesday, in the Sheldonian Theatre, by Col. Rawlinson, C.B., Hon. D.C.L., to an audience calculated at 1,500 persons.

The London Omnibus Company was registered and enrolled at Paris on Wednesday last, and a deposit of nearly 31,000*l.* is lodged with Messrs. Robarts, Curtis, and Co., for the payment of a first instalment of the sum due in the purchase of omnibuses.

Messrs. Strahan, Paul, and Bates have been removed from Newgate to the Millbank Prison, which will be their future abode for the remaining period of their sentence. They were conveyed with the other convicts in the prison van, accompanied by the officer of the prison, and wore the convict dress.

A Court of Wardmote was held on Friday in the Bread-street Ward, for the election of an Alderman in the room of the late Mr. Alderman Lawrence. There were two candidates—Mr. Donald Nicoll; and Mr. Lawrence, son of the late Alderman. The former had the show of hands; the latter demanded a poll. Mr. Lawrence was elected by 45 to 31 votes.

On the subject of wheat sowing, the *Mark Lane Express* says: "We note the almost completion of the important process of wheat sowing with favourable circumstances; the breadth, we learn, being as extensive as prudence and legal limitation will allow in England, while in the south of Ireland this is reported to be beyond precedent. In early-sown places, where the plant is up, it has a vigorous and promising look, and, with the blessing of a forward season, there will be a proportionate diminution of anxiety as to the holding out of present stocks and foreign supplies."

At a meeting of the Middlesex Magistrates, on Thursday, the case of Lieutenant Hill, Governor of the House of Detention, who had been suspended for violating the rules of the prison in favour of Strahan, Paul, and Bates, was dealt with. Mr. E. E. Antrobus moved that he should be dismissed. But this was supported by a very small minority; the great majority agreeing in a resolution directing that Lieutenant Hill should be reprimanded; which, with the loss of his salary for six weeks (50*l.*), it was thought would meet the justice of the case. Lieutenant Hill was called in and reprimanded. A resolution censuring the conduct of the Chaplain was also agreed to.

The *Gloucester Chronicle* has the following explanation respecting the "missing clergyman." It is said that some expression fell from the lips of the intended bride during the last interview, which was misconstrued by the gentleman into something like a regret at the step she was about to take, and that without even seeking an explanation, he pondered over the words, which preyed upon his mind as he walked into Gloucester, and got worked up into such a state of distraction that nothing could satisfy him short of flight. He now writes (from America) in the deepest agony of despair, regretting the pain which he has caused to all parties concerned, confessing, on cooler reflection, that he had put a wrong interpretation upon the words then uttered, and taking all the blame upon himself.

An accident occurred on the North Kent line of railway, about six o'clock on Friday evening. A train proceeding from Woolwich split in two, just at the junction of the Bricklayers' Arms branch with the North Kent. The engine, tender, and three carriages, ran on to the branch; the remainder dashed against the wall which divides the two lines. Three or four carriages were broken, and four persons severely hurt. The accident is attributed to "the misconception or carelessness of a switchman." Mr. Allen, whose right leg was taken off immediately after his admission into the hospital, underwent amputation of the left leg at an early hour on Saturday morning. The operation was performed, under chloroform, very successfully, and great hope is entertained that his life will be saved. The switchman on duty attributes the catastrophe to breakage or imperfection in some portion of the "points machinery," and denies having turned the train from the main line on to the Bricklayers Arms incline.

A meeting was held at the London Tavern, on Wednesday, to consider the state of the monetary system and the influence of the Bank Charter Act of 1844 on domestic and foreign commerce. Mr. Francis Bennoch took the chair, and delivered a lecture advocating the repeal of the Bank Act. The other speakers were Lieut-Colonel Macdonald, Mr. T. C. Salt, of Birmingham, Mr. Jonathan Duncan, Mr. Taylor, of Nottingham, Mr. Bronterre O'Brien, Professor L. Levi, and Mr. E. V. Neale. They resolved that the existing currency-laws are calculated to perpetuate fluctuations in the circulating medium, and thereby produce panics destructive to industry and commerce; that no system can be satisfactory that does not restore gold to its natural character as a commodity; and that national paper should be issued, under conditions calculated to remedy the objections usually urged against paper money. The proceedings were not without interruption; and one of the speakers upbraided the interrupters for disturbing a meeting that cost them nothing —the whole charge of the evening's proceedings being defrayed by Mr. Herbert Ingram, of the *Illustrated London News!* — an announcement received with "laughter and derisive cheers."

Law, Police, and Assize.

Church Differences at Knightsbridge.—On Wednesday, Dr. Lushington, in the Consistory Court, delivered judgment in the case of Mr. Westerton, churchwarden of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, and Mr. Beal, an inhabitant of the ecclesiastical district of St. Barnabas, against the Hon. and Rev. R. Liddell, M.A., the Incumbent. The principle involved in the two cases being the same, it was arranged that they should be taken together. Dr. Lushington, in delivering judgment, referred to the affidavits which had been put in on both sides, and expressed his regret that the dissensions which prevailed in both churches were a matter of painful notoriety. With regard to the articles complained of, he had inspected all the articles, in order that he might come to a satisfactory decision. It had been argued that many of the articles were placed in the church prior to consecration, and that when the Bishop consecrated the church he stamped them with the authority of his approbation. He did not, however, attach any importance to this argument. Unless the Bishop's attention was specially called to these matters, his consecration would not affect them; and, if there were extraordinary ornaments in the church, it was the duty of those who prayed for consecration to call the Bishop's attention to them. In reference to the communion tables, he remarked that he had no complaint to make against that in St. Paul's, but that in St. Barnabas was of stone, and immovable, and therefore illegal. Reviewing the state of the law in reference to credence tables, h declared them to be in contravention of the law of the Church. In reference to crosses, he remarked that it was one of the great objects of the Reformation to abolish them; it was his duty to uphold everything done at that period, and to withhold his sanction from the introduction into the Church service of articles which had not avowedly been in use since that time, as crosses certainly had not been, with very rare exceptions. He had come to the conclusion, that lighted candles upon the altar were warranted neither by practice nor by the law of the Church. The learned judge concluded by granting, in its most material parts, the prayer of Mr. Westerton and Mr. Beal, who instituted the present proceedings against the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Liddell. The learned judge ordered the things complained of to be taken down by this day fortnight, but would not make an order for the costs on either side. The judgment occupied three hours in delivery. On several occasions there were plaudits, which the officers of the court had great difficulty in repressing. On Mr. Westerton passing into the quadrangle outside the court, he was loudly cheered. An appeal has been lodged against the sentence in both cases.

An Important Case to the Commercial World. —The Court for the Consideration of Crown Cases Reserved has quashed the conviction of Cosmo Gordon for felony in not surrendering to a fiat in bankruptcy. At the trial, eight legal objections were reserved; the Judges soon decided seven against the prisoner, but they took time to consider the eighth and even had it re-argued before them. The eighth objection was, that only one copy of the notice of adjudication of bankruptcy was left at the counting-house of Davidson and Gordon, whereas there ought to have been two, one for each partner: on the back of the document was a form of protection from arrest; "each bankrupt," said Mr. Chambers, "had a right to a copy which he might carry in his pocket." Lord Campbell, Barons Parke and Alderson, and Justices Cresswell, Williams, and Crompton, held that two notices should have been left at the bankrupts' place of business; Lord Chief Justice Jervis, Baron Platt, and Justices Erle and Willes, thought one notice sufficient. Conviction quashed. [To appreciate this decision in a non-legal point of view, the reader must remember that at the time when two notices ought to have been left for the bankrupts, that each might have one, with the necessary protection, Davidson and Gordon were traversing the Continent in the ultimately vain endeavour of finding a refuge where their creditors and accusers could not reach them to call them to account for their gigantic misdoings.]

At Chester Assizes, John Moah, formerly Inland Revenue receiver for the Chester collection, was tried for obtaining 560*l.* from one of the collectors by false pretences, and for fraudulently applying to his own use 5,000*l.*, the property of the Crown, which he had received from collectors. He was acquitted on the first charge, but found guilty on the second. Sentence was deferred; apparently, there will be an appeal against the verdict on the second charge. The matter seems to hinge on this—did Moah "fraudulently" use the money? There is no doubt he did use it, for he told the Surveyor-General that he had "spent" the large balance that had been permitted to accumulate.

"Alice Grey" was brought before the Birmingham magistrates on Wednesday, charged with committing perjury in accusing a man of robbing her in October last. She was remanded, as a Government notice had been received that she was to be taken to Wolverhampton to meet a charge there. On Saturday, she appeared before the Wolverhampton magistrates, charged with committing perjury in that court, on the occasion of the committal of the boys Randle and Perry, and also with a similar crime in the Sessions Court at Stafford, when the boys were convicted. The proceedings occupied only a very few minutes. At their close, the prisoner, who was in good spirits, and who seemed to regard the whole matter as a good joke, was remanded for a week. A great deal of sympathy has been manifested for this woman. She has received presents of money; scraps of her handwriting are care-

fully treasured; and her portrait, taken a few days ago, is very eagerly sought after. One publican is anxious to have her as a barmaid.

At Newcastle Assizes, Robert Martinson, formerly junior cashier to the Northumberland District Banking Company, pleaded Guilty to embezzling 426*l.* from the bank. Much of the money was recovered, and whatever loss occurs will fall upon a guarantee society, the surety of the prisoner. He was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation.

At Hertford Assizes, two men and two women, part of a London gang, were convicted of complicity in a burglary at Hadfield. The chief witness was an approver—a young woman, who said she had "innocently" accompanied the culprits on their country jaunt. The sentences were transportation for fifteen years for one man, and ten years' penal servitude for the other prisoners.

At the Taunton Assizes, on Thursday, Thomas Tutton was tried for attempting to poison his father. The case excited great interest, as the chief witnesses were the father, mother, and four sisters of the accused. The cries and screams of the women when brought into court to give their evidence were appalling. Verdict—NotGuilty.

A gentleman has been fined 10s. by the Greenwich magistrate for smoking in a railway-carriage on the Croydon line. The Brighton Railway Company have resolved to check the prevalent practice of smoking in trains.

At the Exeter Assizes, on Saturday, Robert Handcock was tried for the murder of his wife Philippa. The jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty, on the ground of insanity; and the prisoner was ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure. The case lasted from nine o'clock in the morning until after nine at night.

At Liverpool, on Monday, James Pager was indicted for arson, in setting fire to a dwelling-house at Salford, on the 20th August last, one Mary Gibbons being therein. The chief witness was the above, Mary Gibbons, his servant. He had recently effected an insurance in the Anchor office for 30*l.* It was proved that a recent fire had taken place on the premises of the prisoner through which he had obtained a claim from the London and County Insurance-office; and that he had said, in a conversation with Mr. Lamb, a grocer in Manchester, who supplied him with goods, that he should shortly be able to make his payments more regularly, because he should have a fire shortly, and should then be in a condition to go into the market with ready money. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty. His lordship then directed sentence of death to be recorded.

On Saturday, William Story, tailor, of 62, Fleet-street, appeared before Alderman Finnis, Sir R. W. Carden, and Alderman Wire and Eagleton, to answer a summons, which alleged that he, having been served with an order which required him to pay to the collector of the Church-rate of St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, the sum of 3*l.* 14*s.*, refused to pay that sum. He accordingly appeared to answer that complaint, and to show cause why a distress warrant should not be issued. Mr. Story: There is no case against me, and so I have nothing to answer. Alderman Finnis: Then I direct a distress warrant to be issued.

Literature.

The Life and Travels of Herodotus, in the Fifth Century before Christ: an Imaginary Biography founded on Fact. By J. TALBOYS WHEELER, F.R.G.S., Author of "The Geography of Herodotus," &c. Two Vols. London: Longman and Co.

THIS is really a clever book,—the fruit of immense reading, and written with remarkable vigour and vividness. It is "an attempt to give in a popular form a complete survey of the principal nations of the ancient world as they were in the days of Pericles and Nehemiah." In order to this the author has selected the life and the great work of Herodotus, and founded on their main facts an imaginary biography of the delightful old geographer and historian,—describing his supposed travels to the most famous cities and countries of antiquity; thus obtaining a basis on which to found a general view of the histories of the various nations, with narratives of their traditions and the religious ideas belonging to their several mythologies, and with accounts of the appearance, pecularities, social life, and manners of each people noticed. For the completeness of this picture of the ancient world, and for the sake of connecting the sacred history with the profane, the author has invented a visit by Herodotus to Persepolis and Jerusalem, and has brought him into contact with the prophet Nehemiah! and in other places, he has sought to gain breadth of canvas and depth of colour, by a resort to devices which the scholar may condemn for slight anachronism and incongruity.

Mr. Wheeler is aware that a work so constructed is peculiarly open to criticism; especially as he confesses to having stated boldly results which have not yet obtained the approval of scholars in general, and has omitted all references and authorities. A great deal of latitude is, however, allowable in such a book; and Mr. Wheeler's plea that he has "conscientiously laboured to compile such an introduction to the study of ancient history as should both amuse and instruct the general reader,—and, in a word, has sought to clear ancient history from the dust of the schools, and teach it in shady playgrounds and flowery gardens,"—is so powerfully and pleasantly sustained by the execution of his conception, that we are unwilling to be captious in our criticism. Indeed, adverse criticism of the book is quite as likely to proceed from the affectation of being a "severer scholar" than the author, as from the existence of real dissatisfaction with the work, and intelligent objection to its details. At the same time, we may express our doubts on three points, for the relief of our own minds. First, we doubt the wisdom of selecting a great historical person like Herodotus for an *imaginary biography*—the reader is confused by the mixture of true history and suppositious story, and, if he proceeds further, finds that much of what was most delightful and real to him in reading the volumes is no more than clever invention. Secondly, we doubt the propriety of so boldly and without warning incorporating speculation and uncertainty with the actual and historical—the "general reader" can least of all (as he may depend for his information on such a work, and never read the criticism and corrections that scholars write and receive,) afford to be hovering in incertitude about the line which distinguishes the true from the merely probable in history. And thirdly, we doubt whether Mr. Wheeler's incidents and conversations have not often more of the spirit of modern life and civilisation, than of the Greek. These are all our objections; and we can now conscientiously speak in commendation of our author's ability, knowledge, diligence, and great literary power.

The materials of this popular work are the same substantially as those of the work offered by Mr. Wheeler to more critical and exacting readers in his "Geography of Herodotus," reviewed and praised by us some months ago. There are, however, very large additions—not only of story contributed by the writer's fertile imagination, but also, of historical narrative, legend, and anecdote from the ever-charming pages of Herodotus and other sources, and told with a force and brilliancy that could hardly be exceeded. The geographical descriptions are so distinct and picturesque, that even these driest parts are penetrated with real intelligibleness and interest. The word-pictures of places and incidents are freely drawn, with a hand that can be delicate as well as powerful in its touches. And whatever may be the case with particular details, a *general* truth to the condition and life of the world a few centuries before Christ, is faithfully preserved.

We give an extract, as illustrative of the author's manner:—

"Herodotus was travelling towards Olympia, by the road leading from Sparta through Arcadia, along the banks of the Alpheus towards the sacred Olympian valley. He had joned a large company of Spartan citizens, who were bound to the same spot. Astydamas and other athletæ were with the party, and they were all yielding to the social influences of the festive season, and making themselves wonderfully agreeable for so stern a race. A pilgrim to our own national games at Ascot or the Derby may form some conception of the witticisms that were exchanged between stranger travellers, and of the bets and criticisms upon the several combatants. 'Who lost his shield at Ithorne?' cried a lively Athenian as he passed the Spartan group. 'Not you,' was the rejoinder, 'but the man who lent it you.' 'How do you like your kings?' asked another young democrat from Athens. 'Better than oyster shells,' replied a Spartan; and this indeed was rather a hard hit, as the Athenian democracy had recently ostracised one of their best citizens. 'Are your slaves still masters?' cried another, anxious to turn the tables. This was a poser, and the Helot rebellion was indeed a most aggravating circumstance; but the Spartan passed it off by offering to bet on the approaching games. . . . It was still very early on a fine summer's afternoon that Herodotus and his party at last reached Olympia. The whole plain and the surrounding heights presented the appearance of a vast camp. Tents were pitched upon the green sward; stores of provisions were opened and discussed; goblets in which wine and pure water were sweetly mingled together were passed round and quaffed with gladness of heart. Indeed that evening meal was joyous in the extreme; and when it was over, Herodotus saw with surprise that his Spartan companions, who whilst at home had practised the abstemiousness of teetotallers, were getting as solemnly, and in some cases as outrageously, jovial after their journey, as Corinthian sailors after a voyage from Egypt or Cyrene. . . . Two hours passed away. It was the eve of the first day of the festival, and the moon was at the full. Our young traveller was standing on the green slope of Cronium, whilst the pensive beams of the silver moon-goddess were falling upon that lovely valley, as if young Endymion's self were slumbering there, and she were descending to kiss his ruby lips. The groves of olive and plane trees were throwing their fantastic shadows upon the dewy verdure. Beyond the vale was the broad stream of Alpheus, studded with small islands, so beautiful and unearthly, that Herodotus could almost fancy they were the homes of the water nymphs, which the river god was pressing to his amorous bosom. It was a night when imagination could people the scene with a thousand Divine forms. The river god might once more be pursuing the fair Nereid Arethusa, who refused to listen to his love. Beneath yonder grove the frightened nymph might be again praying to holy Artemis for succour. Gaze on with pious earnestness and poetic fervour. The virgin deity descends in pure and spotless garb. The Nereid melts into a crystal fountain, and sinks under the earth far away, where no Alpheus can follow. It was indeed a holy spot, but the dreaminess of that first view soon passed away. A thousand other spectators were standing with Herodotus, to see the silver moonlight streaming upon olive groves and marble temples, and falling with heavenly calmness upon the broad flood of the rippling river, and all were thinking of those solemn games which were soon to be performed in honour of the Olympian Zeus. Immediately beneath them were the gymnasium for the preliminary exercises, and the prytaneum, or town-hall. Near these were the row of ten treasuries which had been erected by the different Greek States, and contained statues and other offerings of great beauty, and exquisite workmanship. Below the treasuries, on a basement of stone steps, were six statues of Zeus Zanes, which had been erected from the fines levied from those athletæ who had transgressed the Olympian laws. Further to the left, in a grove of wild olives, was the stadium for the runners, and the other athletæ; and beyond the stadium was the hippodrome, for the horse and chariot races. But the crowning edifice of all wast he magnificent temple of Olympian Zeus. This was, indeed, one of the grandest achievements of Grecian art, and stood in the sacred grove of altars, surrounded by statues of gods and victors. These were a few of the spirit-stirring objects which Herodotus saw by moonlight from the heights of Cronium, and which filled his soul with national pride and pious enthusiasm. As he strolled back to his comrades, he could tell, by the tents and watch-fires which dotted the surrounding slopes, and by the noise of laughter and songs which reached his ears, that the night was being spent in joyous revelry. None indeed could have resisted the genial influence of that festal season. The refreshing coolness of a summer evening, the sight of enormous multitudes from all parts of Hellas, the present feasting, and the approaching games, were gladdening the hearts of impassioned Ionians and sterner Dorians, until all men felt that they had assembled like brothers to a grand family gathering, to exult in common rejoicings over their ancestral glory and national renown."

On the whole, there is perhaps no better or more reliable view of the world before Christ, or more complete popular introduction to ancient history, than these volumes contain. And if they will not altogether satisfy educated artistic tastes any more than scholarly expectations, they are, at least, very entertaining and instructive reading.

Christ in the Wilderness. Four Sermons preached before the University of Cambridge, in the month of February, 1855. By the Rev. HARVEY GOODWIN, M.A., late Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Minister of St. Edward's, Cambridge, and Hulsean Lecturer. Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, and Co. London: Bell and Daldy.

THE Bible does not treat man as a spiritual infant. It addresses the entire manhood of his nature, and its first approach to him is in the entreaty, "Come now and let us *reason* together." Hence there are difficulties in Scripture, great and grave difficulties, because the high purpose of Scripture could not have been answered without them. But these difficulties have been greatly increased by unnatural and purely theological modes of interpreting the facts and miracles of Divine revelation with which they stand associated. A method of sermonising about truth, as if it stood apart from the actualities of life, and a cold unsympathising manner of passing on the other side those who have not yet attained what Wordsworth describes as

> That blessed mood
> In which the burden of the mystery,
> In which the heavy and the weary weight,
> Of all this unintelligible world
> Is lightened,

have done much to increase the difficulties to which we allude. In reference to such difficulties, Mr. Goodwin, in a wise and genial spirit, thus refers: "These difficulties may be made to appear insuperable, and in actual practice they are continually leading men, who have sufficient acuteness to see the difficulties, but not sufficient wisdom to see the solution, away from faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, how are these difficulties to be met? I reply, that they must first be acknowledged, and we must be able to sympathise with those who suffer from them; we must not, from a high, pure, cold region of orthodoxy, denounce the wickedness of those who err from the faith; Christ would not have done this; He would rather have sighed over the sufferings of His brethren, remembering how He himself had once been compelled to combat the arguments of infidelity." Pp. 98, 99.

To meet and to solve the "very delicate questions," connected with the temptation of Jesus, we have the four sermons that constitute this valuable little book; of which we can only say that it is a timely and most acceptable addition to our theological literature generally, and specially to that department of it which is associated with the "Broad-Church" party, and is eminently expository of its freedom, vigour, and true evangelism.

The first sermon we may term the *historical* one: Christ's temptation illustrated by and illustrating Christ's ministry; the second we may call the *ecclesiastical*, or Church history viewed in the light of the temptation; the third is *ministerial* or profesional, or Christ's temptation teaching us the right mode of our preparing for the ministry of the Gospel; and the last, and in many respects the best is the *ethical* discourse; on the temptations of Christ considered as analagous to the temptations of mankind.

There is no one of these discourses without its own special significance and value; it is not only the high mental culture that each one indicates, but the vigorous earnestness, and withal manifest sincerity, of the whole that impresses the reader with a true thankfulness that such teachers are raised up in our catholic Christendom so specially adapted to meet the tendencies of the age, and so thoroughly freed from the spirit of

bigotry. As illustrative of all these characteristics we make but one final quotation, persuaded that many of our readers will go for themselves to this precious little volume of manly thought and holy purpose:—

"Let us not assume that the spirit of the world belongs to Popery, and is exorcised from Protestantism,—not to fancy that the Church of Rome has forgotten the true principles of the kingdom of Christ, and that the same principles have never been forgotten in our own Reformed Church of England. It would be a very unpractical and a very false way of considering the subject, to look entirely away from ourselves, lament that the progress of Christ's kingdom has been impeded, as doubtless it has been, by worldly influences, and forget to examine how far those influences have been effective in this country,—how far they have crippled the spiritual power of the Church,—how far they have assisted in breaking up the body of Christ into sects and parties,—and how far they have been instrumental in producing the phenomenon of a mass of spiritual destitution, scarcely to be estimated and believed, in the midst of a country boasting all the while with almost Pharisaical self-complacency of its pure and reformed religion."

We need not add another word of commendation; it is just this kind of teaching our age so deeply needs; and we accept it gratefully from whatever quarter it may come, hoping meanwhile that we are not wrong in the cherished conviction that another Evangelical Alliance looms in no distant future, on whose platform men shall meet and worship the Father, not as bound to each other by the technical verbiage of a creed, but as united by true faith in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, as the sufficient stimulus to Christian endeavour, and the exclusive motive for Christian union.

Gleanings.

The *Dublin University Magazine* has been purchased by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett, of London.

A pauper lately died at Radcliffe, near Bury, Lancashire, aged 103.

The Americans have produced their first opera, which is named "Rip Van Winkle!"

It is stated by the *New York Musical Review* that "The States" are expecting a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss, and other vocalists, so as to form a complete opera company.

A gold chain, to be paid for by voluntary subscription, is about to be provided for the Mayor of Sheffield.

"Save my country, Heaven!" says Sir George Rose, were the dying words of Pitt. An old nurse, the only other person present, interpreted the muttered syllables into—"Give me some barley water."

Yesterday (Tuesday), the Wizard of the North achieved the 100th representation of his most successful entertainment. There were special attractions for the occasion, and a present to every one who visited the Lyceum.

A showman exhibiting a picture, said, "Ladies and gentlemen, there is Daniel in the den of lions. These are the lions, and that is Daniel, whom you will easily distinguish from the lions by his having a *blue cotton umbrella under his arm.*"

Herr Beckstein, of course an erudite German, has endeavoured to express upon paper the notes of the nightingale, with what success our readers must judge for themselves:—

Zozozozozozozozozozozozozozo zirrhading
Hezezezezezezezezezezezezezezeze cowar ho dze hoi
Higaigaigaigaigaigaigaigaigai guaiagai coricor dzio dzio pi.

On the top of a tannery, in Hexham (says a correspondent), is a fane, with the figure of a bishop pursuing a pig, which he has caught by the leg with his crook, but a goose on the pig's back, in a hissing attitude, defies the nearer approach of the spiritual shepherd. Also, on a paper in a shop window, in the same town, the following fact is put in the shape of a question: "Does not the accursed tithe tax enhance the price of the people's food?"

It is stated in connexion with Sir Colin Campbell's recent visit to Windsor Castle, that in the course of the evening Her Majesty made Sir Colin sit on the sofa beside her, and pointed out to him, that the army in the Crimea could not get on without him, and that he must return. The gallant old soldier is said to have been so much affected by his Sovereign's kindly language as to have burst into tears, and to have assured his Royal hostess that he would do anything for her, saying, "I'll even carry a musket for your Majesty!"

Jenny Lind (Madame Goldschimdt) gave her first performance at Exeter Hall on Monday, in the *Creation*, to a very crowded audience. Madame Goldschmidt is somewhat thinner and more serious looking than Jenny Lind, but the glorious voice, which she has, in every sense of the word, used so well, remains still fresh and unapproachably beautiful. She sang throughout with a simple earnestness that made the sacred strains more sacred; and the enthusiasm with which the audience greeted her was of the most heartfelt and unanimous character.

M. About, in a lively volume, entitled "Greece and the Greeks of the Present Day," gives the following pen-and-ink sketch of the King and Queen of Greece:—

The King, when he goes through the streets of Athens, in Palikar costume, on a prancing horse, which he rides gracefully, may produce some sensation. His tall figure, his thinness, and a certain air of wearied majesty, have much struck foreigners who have seen him from a distance. His mind, according to all those who have worked with him, is timid, hesitating, and minute. When he wishes to study any affair, he has all the papers brought him, scrupulously reads them from one end to the other, without forgetting anything; he corrects the faults of spelling, alters the punctuation, criticises the writing; and when he has examined everything, he has learned nothing; after that, still less has he decided on anything. His last word in every business, is always, "We will see." The Queen is for prompt resolves; she possesses the qualities of a general commanding an army. I do not know whether she reflects much before deciding, but certainly she does not reflect long; every year affairs would remain in suspense if the King reigned alone; but he makes a three months' journey for his health; on leaving, he makes over the regency to the Queen. The Queen takes a pen, and signs without examination all the laws which the King has examined without signing. The King has, they say, an excellent heart. The Queen's reputation for kindness is not so well established. Nothing is more easy than to offend her; nothing more difficult than to get into favour with her again. I could mention the name of a man, whom she will never forgive, having dined with her without a good appetite; she thought that he wished to despise her *cuisine*. I know of another, who took the liberty of bringing to a Court-ball half-a-dozen mandarin oranges, which he distributed to a few ladies. This culprit is a clever man, brought up in England, educated, capable, and very fit for diplomacy. His father, who was one of the richest merchants of Hydra, ruined himself for Greece, which is indebted to him for nearly a million (francs). The son will never be anything, not even an embassy porter; his oranges were an epigram against the Court refreshments. The Queen is a jealous divinity, who punishes the guilty unto the seventh generation.

Obituary.

GEORGE GILL, ESQ., OF NOTTINGHAM.—This eminent philanthropist died at Nottingham, on the 30th ult., aged seventy-six. He attained a high mercantile position, as a cotton merchant, in that town. Mr. Gill identified himself with the Radical party, and continued such to the latest period of his life. The Friends' meeting house was his usual place of worship, but his opinions, we believe, were Unitarian. Though the son of a Church clergyman, he had a thorough hatred of priestcraft. As a citizen, he was active and conscientious. It was not until late in life, and an almost total deprivation of the faculty of hearing rendered his attendance at public assemblies useless, that he retired from the turmoil of activity—a sense of his duties as a citizen pressing ever upon him. His private benevolence and philanthropy were remarkable. Almost his last act was the gift of 1,000*l.* to the funds of the General Hospital. In the month of February, he was seized with a stroke of paralysis, from the effects of which he never recovered. In an eulogistic article the *Notts Review* says:

George Gill's philanthropy was of the least ostentatious nature imaginable. The deepest streams make the least noise. The extent of his generosity, could it be made fully known, would put many a man of much ampler means to the blush. It flowed on in an even current, much more copiously than the public are generally aware. Providence seemed to approve of his endeavours, by furnishing him with recruited pecuniary means. His expansive benevolence, dissatisfied with the dispensation of temporary benefits to his kind, assumed, latterly, a more permanent character. Three noble foundations—the People's College, the People's Hall, and the Working Man's Retreat, will continue to bless and enlighten, though the generous founder is no more. The name of George Gill will go down to the remotest posterity, as one of our greatest benefactors. He did not, as many do, make a virtue of a necessity, by leaving the wealth death forbade him to hold longer to be administered to benevolent objects by executors. He freely gave it WHILE LIVING, that he might himself witness and rejoice in its beneficial employment.

The Rev. ROBERT MONTGOMERY, author of "The Omnipresence of the Deity," "Satan," and other works, and minister of Percy-street Chapel, died at Brighton, after a few days' illness, on Monday week. Mr. Montgomery was educated in the University of Oxford, and about 1835 was ordained a priest of the Established Church. He went to Glasgow, where he became incumbent of an Episcopal chapel, which was crowded to excess; but there was much religious antagonism between him and his Presbyterian neighbours. The Rev. Gentleman, quitting Glasgow, went to London, and resumed his ministerial labours in Percy-street chapel, which he rented to the day of his death. His eloquence invariably drew a large congregation, among whom were persons distinguished in science, art, and literature. Mr. Montgomery, while at College, obtained the highest honours. His leading poetical works are "The Omnipresence of the Deity," "Satan," and "Luther." He gives prominence, in his works, to the doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration. He was a strenuous opponent of Popery.

MR. THOMAS BLACKBURN, OF LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Thomas Blackburn, who took so active and able a part in all the discussions and transactions connected with political improvement, education, and religion, which have taken place in this town during the last thirty years, died at his house in Islington, on Wednesday evening last, after having just completed his seventy-first year. Mr. Blackburn was nearly the oldest, if not the oldest medical practioner in Liverpool, having been in business here not less than fifty years. Mr. Blackburn was much respected as a professional man, and was very successful in his professional pursuits, but would have been much richer (in this world at least), if his benevolence had not induced him to forego payment for his services in innumerable cases of poverty and difficulty. As a citizen, few men equalled Mr. Blackburn in intelligence, in soundness and liberality of views, and moral honesty. He followed his own convictions with firmness, whether they led to popularity or obloquy, and treated the honest convictions of other men with respect.—*Liverpool Times.*

BIRTHS.

Dec. 7, the wife of Mr. S. BEALE, British schoolmaster, Weymouth, of a son.

Dec. 7, at Birmingham, Mrs. CHARLES VINCE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Dec. 4, at Broadmead Chapel, Bristol, by the father of the bride, the Rev. J. C. BUTTERWORTH, of Abergavenny, to JULIANA, fourth daughter of the Rev. T. S. CRISP, President of the Baptist College, Bristol.

Dec. 6, at the Independent Chapel, Green Hammerton, Yorkshire, by the Rev. J. Williams, Mr. THOMAS EASBY, of Wilstrop, to ELEANOR, youngest daughter of Mr. JOSEPH MARSHALL, Green Hammerton.

Dec. 5, at France Chapel, Chalford, by the Rev. T. Whitta, RICHARD HORTON, Esq., surgeon, to MARY, eldest daughter of the late THOMAS PEACHY, both of Chalford.

Dec. 5, at the Baptist Meeting-house, Bishop's Stortford, by the Rev. B. Hodgkins, Mr. NATHAN BEADLE, tailor and draper, Bishop's Stortford, to ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of Mr. CLARK, of Sawbridgeworth.

Dec. 6, at the Baptist Chapel, Oldham, by the father of the bride, Mr. JOHN WEST, of Oldham, to ELIZABETH, daughter of the Rev. JOHN BIRT.

Nov. 17, at High Wycombe, Bucks, Mr. THOMAS TEARLE, of the same place, to SUSAN MARY, second daughter of the late Mr. CHARLES BARTON, of Great Missenden, Bucks.

Dec. 5, at Milborne Port, by the Rev. Joseph Perkins, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, the Rev. E. H. PERKINS, of Milborne Port, to ELIZABETH, widow of JOHN PITMAN, Esq., late of Milborne Port, in the county of Somerset.

Nov. 15, at Dundurn Castle, Canada, the residence of the bride's father, WM. COUTTS, Viscount Bury, only son of the Earl of ALBEMARLE, to SOPHIA, second daughter of the Hon. Sir ALLAN NAPIER M'NAB.

Dec. 1, at Wycliffe Chapel, Stepney, by the Rev. B. H. Cowper, of Mill-wall, Mr. JAMES GOODMAN, builder, of Carlton-road, Mile-end, to EMMA, fourth daughter of Mr. JEREMIAH HOLLOWAY, of Tollet House, Globe-fields, Stepney.

Dec. 6, at the Lion-walk Chapel, Colchester, by the Rev. T. W. Davids, J. DUTTON, Esq., of Birkenhead, to SARAH ELLEN, daughter of T. MOORE, Esq., of Colchester.

DEATHS.

Dec. 9, at the house of his son-in-law, Rev. E. S. Pryce, Gravesend, WM. HEATH, Esq., formerly of Cambridge-heath, Hackney, aged eighty-five.

Nov. 28, at Wissendine, Rutland, LOUISA FRANCES, eldest daughter of the late Mr. JAMES BRITCHNELL, of Leicester.

Nov. 30, at Nottingham, GEORGE GILL, Esq., aged seventy-six.

Feb. 6, at Maré, Loyalty Group, South Seas, after a residence of a little more than three months, SUSAN ANNA, the beloved wife of the Rev. S. M. CREAGH, one of the two missionaries lately sent to that island by the London Missionary Society.

Aug. 30, at Ballarat, Australia, Mr. HENRY TWENTYMAN, the only brother of Mr. RICHARD TWENTYMAN, of Wood-street, Cheapside, aged forty-four.

Nov. 14, at St. John's, New Brunswick, JANE, wife of FRANCIS GILES, Esq., civil engineer, late of 33, Gower-street, Bedford-square, London, aged forty-one.

Dec. 1, suddenly, of disease of the heart, ELLEN, the beloved wife of JOSEPH TRUEMAN, jun., Esq., of Highbury-grove, and Fenchurch-street, aged forty-nine.

Dec. 2, at the residence of his sister, 14, Streatham Paragon, MARK FREEMAN, Esq., of East-hill, Wandsworth.

Dec. 3, at Muswell-hill, JOB WRIGHT, Esq., in his eighty-first year.

Dec. 7, deeply lamented, Miss CARTER, thirty-three years proprietress of the Library, Worthing, aged sixty-seven.

Dec. 7, at 4, Belgrave-square, the Lady FRANCES ANN HOPE.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, TUESDAY EVENING.

The English Funds opened flatly this morning, and soon experienced a fall of ¼ to ⅜ per cent., recent operators for a rise showing a disposition to realise profits in the absence of any fresh pacific reports. The decline being met, however, by fresh speculative purchases a decided reaction took place, but this was only partially maintained at the close, some considerable *bonâ fide* sales having been pressed in the afternoon. The closing quotations were a shade below those of yesterday. In the Stock Exchange, money was in good demand at 5 per cent. on Government Securities. In the Discount Market there is no change.

At Paris to-day the Three per Cent. Rentes recovered about ⅜ per cent. after yesterday's fall. The Vienna Bourse is decidedly better. The exchange on London has further declined from 10.48 to 10.40, and the premium on gold and silver has fallen ⅜ per cent.

The Foreign Stock Market exhibited no striking alteration. The chief transactions are still in Turkish Six per Cents., in which business is recorded from 83⅝ to 84¼. The closing quotation was 83¾ to 84¼, being much the same as that of yesterday. The scrip of the New Four per Cent. Guaranteed Loan is prejudiced by the approach of Friday, when an instalment of 15 per cent. is required to be paid.

Last week's Bank of England returns were rather favourable, there being an increase in the stock of bullion, and slight alteration in the reserve of notes.

The movements of the precious metals last week were of interest. The importations amounted to about 350,000*l.*, while the known exports were about 600,000*l.*; and by private hands to the Bank of France, there were large sums remitted from London.

Only one vessel has left London for Australia during the past week, its destination being Sydney, with a capacity of 648 tons. The rates of freight exhibit little alteration.

In the trade of the port of London considerable activity continues to be observable, and in the landing department of the Customs all hands are busily engaged. The opening of the new Victoria Dock creates additional work, but, through the exertions of the Inspector-General, the pressure, it is said, is met to the satisfaction of the merchants and shipowners.

The provincial trade reports for the past week furnish continued proof of the groundlessness of the attempts made a month or two back to create a commercial panic. From all quarters the accounts are satisfactory, and quiet confidence is their most striking feature. At Manchester there has been a

steady demand at firm prices. At Birmingham the iron trade shows a tendency to increased animation, and quotations have in some instances advanced, although great differences of opinion prevail as to their probable range for the future. In the condition of the local occupations of the place much diversity is observable, many being extremely active, while in others there is great individual distress. The Nottingham advices describe an increased business both in lace and hosiery. In the woollen districts this is usually a dull period, and stocks are slightly accumulating. From the Irish markets the reports are favourable, the demand for linen goods having been well sustained, while in the Dublin provision trade the supplies are abundant, and an opinion is expressed that for all articles of consumption there will henceforth be a tendency to lower rates.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per Ct. Consols	90¼ ⅛	90¼ ⅛	89¾ 90¼	90¼ ⅛	90¼ ⅛	90¼
Consols for Account	90¼ ⅛	91⅛ 90¼	90¼ ⅛	89½ x d	89½ x d	89 8½xd
3 per Cent. Red.	89½ ⅛	89½ ⅛	89½ 9	89½ ⅛	89½ ⅛	89½ 9
New 3 per Cent. Annuities	89½ ⅛	89½ ⅛	89½ ⅛	89½ ⅛	89½ ⅛	89½ ⅛
India Stock	226 5	—	227	Shut	—	—
Bank Stock	210½ 9	209 10½	209 10½	210½ 9	210½ 9	210 ½
Exchequer-bills	2 dis	2 dis	6 dis	2 dis	2 dis	—
India Bonds	—	5 dis	7 dis	3 dis	3 dis	6 dis
Long Annuities	3⅛	—	3 7-16	15-16 ⅛	3 5-16	3⅛

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria. c. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 1st day of Dec., 1855.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£24,580,570	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	2,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	10,580,570
		Silver Bullion	—
	£24,580,570		£24,580,570

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)	£10,275,480
Rest	3,185,588		
Public Deposits	4,439,589	Other Securities	18,868,757
Other Deposits	12,234,788	Notes	5,505,485
Seven Day and other Bills	843,294	Gold and Silver Coin	646,587
	£35,296,259		£35,296,259

Dec. 6, 1855. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Friday, December 7, 1855.

BANKRUPTS.

M'Carroll, A., Brighton, Sussex, seller of musical instruments, Dec. 19, Jan. 16; solicitors, Messrs. Barron and Clarke, Bloomsbury-square.

Solomon, J., Vine-street, Minories, beer merchant, Dec. 18, Jan. 15; solicitor, Mr. Leverson, St. Helen's-place, Bishopsgate.

Smith, S., Holywell-row, Shoreditch, carman, Dec. 18, Jan. 15; solicitor, Mr. Wright, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

Hagen, B., Aldermanbury, City, merchant, Dec. 21, Jan. 24; solicitor, Mr. Dean, New Broad-street.

Courtenay, T. P., Thames Ditton and East Moulsey, Surrey, cowkeeper, Dec. 14, Jan. 17; solicitors, Messrs. Laurance and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, Old Jewry.

Virtue, J., Newman-street, Oxford-street, and Alfred-mews, Tottenham-court-road, carpenter, Dec. 21, Jan. 17; solicitor, Mr. M'Duff, Castle-street, Holborn.

Butler, J., Rochester, Kent, jeweller, Dec. 14, Jan. 26; solicitor, Mr. Jones, Quality-court, Chancery-lane.

Maude, J. W., Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street; Commercial-road, Limehouse, and Wharf-road, City-road, lighterman, Dec. 21, Jan. 26; solicitors, Messrs. Surr and Gribble, Abchurch-lane.

Norton, H. F., York-road, Westminster, brush maker, Dec. 17, Jan. 15; solicitor, Mr. Johnson, Chancery-lane.

Granger, J., Blackman-street, Southwark, licensed victualler, Dec. 18, Jan. 15; solicitors, Messrs. Shaen and Grant, Kennington-cross.

Hipkins, G. F., Birmingham, patent spring manufacturer, Dec. 21, Jan. 11; solicitors, Messrs. Smith and Elkington, Birmingham.

Jackson, S., Kildwick, Yorkshire, machine maker, Dec. 18, Jan. 15; solicitor, Mr. Paget, Skipton.

Baird, H., Sheffield, Yorkshire, linendraper, Dec. 22, Jan. 26; solicitors, Messrs. Terry and Watson, Bradford; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

Lewin, J., and Lewin, T., Liverpool, wine merchants, Dec. 20, Jan. 24; solicitor, Mr. Dodge, Liverpool.

Sladen, T. S., Manchester, corn and flour dealer, Dec. 17, Jan. 23; solicitors, Messrs. Higson and Robinson, Manchester.

Fry, A. R., Sunderland, Durham, builder, Dec. 18, Jan. 17; solicitors, Messrs. Harle and Co, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Messrs. Moore and Co., Sunderland.

Brockett, W. E., Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Whickham, Durham, money scrivener, Dec. 17, Jan. 25; solicitors, Messrs. Chater and Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS.

Dec. 31, R. Lewis, Wootton-under-Edge, cloth manufacturer.—Dec. 31, J. Sewell, Brackley, Northamptonshire, and Twyford-street, Caledonian-road, timber merchant.—Dec. 28, J. Hughes-don and A. Mackay, Chandernagore, East Indies, merchants.—Dec. 28, W. P. Lockwood, Wakefield, chymist.—Dec. 28, J. Grover, Strand, envelope maker.—Dec. 28, C. Hornsell, Chelmsford, ironmonger.—Dec. 28, H. Miller and W. Hook, Newport, Isle of Wight, hardwaremen.—Jan. 3, J. Jones, Llanelly, Brecknockshire, coal merchant.—Dec. 28, H. Cowie, Liverpool, shipowner.—Jan. 8, J. Lupton, Bradford, Yorkshire, innkeeper.—Jan. 8, J. Taylor, Ovenden, Yorkshire, worsted spinner.—Jan. 8, G. Nelson, Leeds, upholsterer.—Dec. 28, M. H. Burrows and G. Ruddock, Wakefield, worsted spinners.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

S. Spedding and W. Spedding, Calverley, Yorkshire, manufacturers—B. S. Brough and W. Derbyshire, Longton, Staffordshire Potteries, brickmakers—T. Baker, W. Ruck, and W. Jennings, Lime-street, attorneys—J. Rigge, R. A. Brockbank, and H. Rigge, New Bond-street and Brighton—J. Wainwright, G. Wainwright, A. Wainwright, and J. Riley, Oldham, Lancashire, cotton spinners; as far as regards J. Wainwright—J. S. Shaw and W. K. Clay, Liverpool, and Seacombe, Cheshire, manufacturers of cement—R. Rose, W. Parrott, and J. Parrott, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, attorneys; as far as regards W. Parrott—W. G. Charleton and C. Carr, North Shields, brassfounders—C. Humfrey and W. H. Sitwell, Farnham-place, Southwark, refiners of tallow—Mary Lloyd and Annie Anwyl Lloyd, Manchester, millners—J. Crossland and T. Turton, Sheffield, manufacturers of table knives—S. Hooper and S. W Hooper, Fleet-street, City, law stationers—J. Boylson and H. Carter, Harrow-road, licensed victuallers—E. Lloyd and M. Mason, Liverpool, omnibus proprietors—J. Blakeley and W. Halliday, jun., Heckmondwike, Yorkshire, carpet manufacturers—C. Gill, J. Plumridge, J. Benning, and G. Rackstraw, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, chair manufacturers; as far as regards C. Gill—C. Bottom, J. Bottom, and W. Bottom, Newmarket, St. Mary, Suffolk, coach proprietors.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

Walker, W. and A., North Berwick, builders, Dec. 10.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Partridge, S. W., and Oakey, D. F., Paternoster-row, City, booksellers, first div. of 1s. 6d., Dec. 10, and any subsequent Monday, at Cannan's, Aldermanbury—Gillam, S. W., Tarlington-place, Edgware-road, wine merchant, first div. of 3d., Dec. 10, and any subsequent Monday, at Cannan's, Aldermanbury—Forrer, A., Regent-street, jeweller, second div. of 2s 0½d., Dec. 10, and any subsequent Monday, at Cannan's, Aldermanbury—Rose, S., and Rose, R. W., Honiton, Devonshire, drapers, first div. of 6s., any Tuesday or Friday, at Hirtzel's, Exeter—Kingdon, J. J., Ridgway, Devonshire, saddler, first div. of 3½d., any Tuesday or Friday, at Hirtzel's, Exeter—Norsworthy, W. J., Sidmouth, Devonshire, baker, first div. of 1s. 10d., any Tuesday or Friday, at Hirtzel's, Exeter—Lotinga, S. M., and Lotinga, N. S., Newcastle-upon-Tyne and North Shields, merchants, first div. of 3s., Dec. 8, and any subsequent Saturday, at Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Brown, J., Brown, M. T., and Brown, N., Monkwearmouth, builders, first and final div. of 1s. 6d., Dec. 8, and any subsequent Saturday, at Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Bostock, T., Manchester, packer, first div. of 9s. 1d., Dec. 18, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Fraser's, Manchester.

Tuesday, December 11, 1855.

BANKRUPTS.

Thomas, W., Catherine-street, Strand, publisher, Dec. 21, Jan 25; solicitor, Mr. Gregory, Guildford-street, Russell-square.

Bond, J., Ludgate-hill, City, shawlman, Dec. 21, Jan. 25; solicitor, Mr. Dale, Farnival's-inn.

Bennett, T., Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, tailor, Dec. 18, Jan. 22; solicitor, Mr. Braddon, Gray's-inn-place, Holborn.

Hudson, R., Church-street, Hackney, Berlin wool warehouseman, Dec. 19, Jan. 22; solicitors, Mr. Stubbs, Moorgate-street.

Varty, T., and Owen, E. H., Strand, publishers, Dec. 26, Jan. 23; solicitors, Messrs. Bower and Cotton, Chancery-lane.

Jameson, J., Honey-lane, Milk-street, shawl warehouseman, Dec. 19, Jan. 22; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater and Co., Sise-lane.

Hodd, J. H., Brighton, licensed victualler, Dec. 21, Jan. 21; solicitor, Mr. Adams, Cloak-lane, Dowgate-hill.

Colborne, J. H., Poole, draper, Dec. 22, Jan. 25; solicitors, Messrs. Marden and Pritchard, Christ-church-chambers, Newgate-street.

Butcher, G., Cornhill, City, and Northern-wharf, King's-cross, and Ruardean, Gloucestershire, coal merchant, Dec. 21, Feb. 2; solicitors, Messrs. Hind and Sons.

Shallis, J. F., St. Alban's, Hertfordshire, straw plait manufacturer, Dec. 22, Jan. 26; solicitors, Messrs. Sole and Co., Aldermanbury.

Bourne, W., Barnes-place, Mile-end-road, cabinet maker, Dec. 20, Jan. 21; solicitors, Messrs. Clutton and Ade, High-street, Southwark.

Weller, S., Giltspur-street, City, leather dealer, Dec. 20, Jan. 24; solicitors, Messrs. Bothamley and Freeman, Coleman-street.

Davis, S., and Bryan, T., Birmingham, engineers, Dec. 27, Jan. 17; solicitors, Messrs. Hodgson and Allen, Birmingham.

Shilton, H. A., Coventry, trimming manufacturer, Dec. 28, Jan. 18; solicitors, Messrs. Hodgson and Allen, Birmingham.

Sweet, W., Stoke, Devonport, house carpenter, Dec. 17, Jan. 14; solicitors, Messrs. Beer and Rundle, Devonport.

Stephenson, J., Hogsthorpe, Lincolnshire, joiner, Jan. 9, Feb. 6; solicitor, Mr. Farrow, Alford.

Jaques, F., Droylsden, Lancashire, silk dyer, Dec. 21, Jan. 11; solicitor, Mr. Partington, Manchester.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 3, W. Ashton, Loughborough-terrace, Brixton, builder—Jan. 1, D. Edwards, jun., Portsea, Hampshire, corn and flour factor—Jan. 1, T. E. Shales, Brighton, Sussex, linendraper—Jan. 10, J. B. Morgan and J. Lewis, Ystalyfera Graig, Glamorganshire, drapers—Jan. 8, T. Dixon, Crook, Durham, grocer—Jan. 3, T. Kitts, Bolton, Lancashire, cotton spinner—Jan. 8, T. Gaukroger and J. Gaukroger, Halifax, Yorkshire, cotton spinners—Jan. 8, J. Gaukroger, T. Gaukroger, and W. Slater, Halifax, Yorkshire, cotton spinners.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

J. Wormald and G. Pollard, Bridgefoot, Vauxhall, engineers—J. Dunstan and J. French, Plymouth, haulers of granite—J. Rutty and G. Verey, timber merchants—H. Shepherd and G. Barker, Longton, Staffordshire Potteries, dealers in earthenware—J. Winchurst and C. Winchurst, Birmingham, manufacturing jewellers—A. Lewis and I. Elkins, Little Alie-street, Goodman's-fields, cigar manufacturers—G. F. Green, F. E. Bingley, and W. J. Powell, Bucklersbury, City, accountants—H. M. Westmacott, F. Blake, and F. W. Blake, John-street, Bedford-row, attorneys; as far as regards F. Blake—R. Rhodes and P. Taylor, Welch Whittle, Lancashire—W. Andrew and C. Snewin, West Wood-wharf, West India Docks, timber merchants—M. Dale, W. Jackson, and R. Milner, Bridlington, Yorkshire, ironfounders—S. W. Lavender and S. H. FitzHenry, Liverpool and St. Helen's, Lancashire, and Dublin, drain pipe manufacturers—J. Taylor and T. W. Teulon, Market-street, Paddington, carriers—C. K. Woods, G. T. Woods, and S. Woods, Liverpool, hosiers; as far as regards S. Woods—W. Parrott and J. T. C. Winkfield, East Greenwich, Kent, cement manufacturers—J. H. Elford and A. Elford, Great Pulteney-street, Westminster, tailors—James Cunliffe, John Cunliffe, and J. Myers, Manchester, lithographic and general printers—J. Arnot and J. Smith, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, joiners—C. Griffiths, D. Jones, E. Griffiths, and B. Roberts, Wrexham and Gresford, Denbighshire; Hanmer, Flintshire, and Oswestry, Shropshire, millers; as far as regards D. Jones, and B. Roberts—C. Cowan, J. Cowan, and A. Armstrong, Dublin, paper makers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Anderson, J. and Currie, A., Glasgow, wine and spirit merchants, Dec. 19.

Glen, J., Alloa, flesher, Dec. 18.

Carter, J., Glasgow, merchant, Dec. 18.

Trail, J., Edinburgh, cabinet maker, Dec. 20.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Castendieck, E., Mincing-lane, City, ship agent, first div. of 4d., any Wednesday, at Whitmore's, Basinghall-street—Bond, R., Brighton, builder, first div. of 4s. 0½d., any Wednesday, at Whitmore's, Basinghall-street—Jones, J. W., and Carrier, T., Wolverhampton, hosiers, first div. of 8s. 1d., Dec. 7, and any subsequent Friday, at Whitmore's, Birmingham—Wilson, A., Manchester, timber merchant, first div. of 1s. 1d., Dec. 18, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Fraser's, Manchester—Noel, J. A., South Shields, wine and spirit merchant, first div. of 3s. 4d., Dec. 15, and any subsequent Saturday, at Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Graham, W., Wingate and Low Spennymoor, Durham, grocer, first div. of 8d., Dec. 15, and any subsequent Saturday, at Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Rushton, J. Carlisle, plasterer, first div. of 5s., Dec. 15, and any subsequent Saturday, at Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Bartlam, R., Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, grocer, first div. of 4s. 6d., any Thursday, at Christie's, Birmingham—Jones, J. W. (separate estate), Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, hosier, first div. of 9½d., Dec. 7, and any subsequent Friday, at Whitmore's, Birmingham—Carrier, T. (separate estate), Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, hosier, first div. of 1s., Dec. 7, and any subsequent Friday, at Whitmore's, Birmingham—Parkinson, J., sen. (separate estate), Leicester, hosier, first div. of 15s., Dec. 3, and three subsequent Mondays, at Harris's, Nottingham—Lowe, S., Derby, silk manufacturer, first div. of 12s. 6d., Dec. 3, and three subsequent Mondays, at Harris's, Nottingham—Newell, H. F., Bradford, draper, first div. of 3s. 6d., any day, at Young's, Leeds—Carver, J. and Son, Halifax, machine makers, first div. of 5s., any day, at Young's, Leeds—Brook, S., and Co., Huddersfield, bankers, fourth div. of 5-6d., any day, at Young's, Leeds—Hammond, R., Ripon, builder, first div. of 1s. 6d., any day, at Young's, Leeds—Dyson, J., Huddersfield, draper, second div of 7d., any day, at Young's, Leeds—Holmes, F. W., Leeds, wine merchant, first div. of 1s., any day, at Young's, Leeds—Watkinson, J. E., Halifax, grocer, third div. of 2d., any day, at Young's, Leeds—Fell and Searoyd, Huddersfield, manufacturers, first div. of 1s., any day, at Young's, Leeds—Jennings, William, Bradford, draper, first div. of 6s. 8d., any day, at Young's, Leeds—Briggs, Samuel, Briggs, William, and Banks, Abraham, Keighley, Yorkshire, machine makers, first div. of 1s. 6d., any Monday or Tuesday on and after Dec. 10, at Hope's, Leeds—Browett, Louisa, Bradford, Yorkshire, innkeeper, first div. of 2s. 6d., any Monday or Tuesday on and after Dec. 10, at Hope's, Leeds.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, London, Monday, Dec. 10.

Although we have had moderate arrivals both this morning and during the past week, sales of English wheat were made this morning with difficulty at 3s to 4s per quarter under last Monday's prices, and at this reduction some quantity was left unsold. Holders of foreign were not disposed to lower their demands, consequently very little was done. Flour slow sale, and English 2s per sack and American 1s per barrel cheaper. Barley went off very slowly at prices 1s to 2s per quarter under those of Monday last. Beans and peas dull, and 1s to 2s per quarter cheaper. Notwithstanding the short arrivals of oats, buyers held off, and we lower quotations fully 6d per quarter. Linseed met with less inquiry, and cakes not so ready sale. Of cloverseed there was little offering. Floating cargoes of wheat and maize neglected.

British	s.	s.	Foreign	s.	s.
Wheat—			Wheat		
Essex and Kent, Red	82	to 84	Dantzig	86	to 94
Ditto White	84	86	Konigsberg, Red	82	88
Line., Norfolk, and Yorkshire Red	—	—	Pomeranian, Red	84	90
Scotch	80	82	Rostock	84	90
Rye	58	60	Danish and Holstein	80	86
Barley malting (new)	42	43	East Friesland	78	83
Distilling	38	40	Petersburg	74	82
Malt (pale)	80	84	Riga and Archangel	—	—
Beans, Mazagan	45	50	Polish Odessa	74	78
Ticks	—	—	Marianopoli	86	88
Harrow	—	—	Taganrog	—	—
Pigeon	—	—	Egyptian	56	60
Peas, White	52	54	American (U.S.)	82	94
Grey	40	42	Barley, Pomeranian	40	42
Maple	40	42	Konigsberg	—	—
Boilers	56	58	Danish	38	42
Tares (English)	40	42	East Friesland	30	32
Foreign	40	42	Egyptian	28	30
Oats (English feed)	27	29	Odessa	32	34
Flour, town made, per Sack of 280 lbs.	72	73	Beans—		
Linseed, English	—	—	Horse	44	46
Baltic	76	78	Pigeon	46	48
Black Sea	78	80	Egyptian	42	43
Hempseed	54	56	Peas, White	52	56
Canaryseed	46	56	Oats—		
Cloverseed, per cwt. of 112 lbs. English	—	—	Dutch	24	31
German	—	—	Jahde	27	31
French	—	—	Danish	26	29
American	—	—	Danish, Yellow feed	29	33
Linseed Cakes, 17*l* 0s to 17*l* 10s			Swedish	28	31
Rape Cake, 7*l* 10s to 8*l* 0s per ton			Petersburg	28	29
Rapeseed, 42*l* 0s to 44*l* 0s per last			Flour, per bar. of 196lbs.		
			New York	42	46
			Spanish, per sack	67	68
			Carrawayseed	36	40

SEEDS, London, Monday, Dec. 10.—The trade for both red and white cloverseed just now is quiet, with very few transactions passing; but where sales have been made of parcels on the spot full prices have been obtained. The high rates required by foreign sellers preclude business at present. Trefoils continue firm, at full rates. Canaryseed without alteration. Winter tares, with less supply, are more inquired for at rather better prices.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are rom 11d to 11½d; of household ditto, 9d to 10½d per 4lbs loaf.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, Islington, Monday, Dec. 3.

The great Christmas cattle market was held in Smithfield this day last year, but it will not be held here till Monday next, when a fine supply of stock is expected to arrive. The arrivals from Ireland, last week, direct by sea, amounted to 72 beasts, and 150 pigs. There was a moderate show of foreign stock in to-day's market. The supply of Irish, *viâ* Liverpool, amounted to 300 beasts and 600 sheep in good condition. From our own grazing districts, the receipts of beasts fresh up this morning were but moderate. In their general quality, however, we observed a great improvement. For all kinds, we had an active demand, at prices fully equal to those paid on Monday last, and a good clearance was effected. The arrivals of beasts from Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire, amounted to 1,600 short-horns; from other parts of England 500 of various breeds; and from Scotland, 250 Scots. Amongst the foreign supply were 130 Spanish oxen. With sheep, we were but moderately supplied as to quality: but their number was seasonably good. On the whole, the mutton trade was in a sluggish state at last Monday's decline in price. The top figure for Downs was 5s per 8lbs. The supply of calves was moderate, and the veal trade ruled steady, at 2d per 8lbs above Friday's currency. The best veal realised 5s 2d per 8lbs. Pigs—the show of which was tolerably good—sold slowly, yet prices were well supported.

Per 8lbs. to sink the offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	8	to 3	10	Pr. coarsewoolled	4	4	to 4	6
Second quality	4	0	4	4	Prime Southdown	4	8	5	0
Prime large oxen	4	6	4	10	Lge. coarse calves	4	0	4	8
Prime Scots, &c.	5	0	5	2	Prime small	4	10	5	2
Coarse inf. sheep	3	4	3	6	Large hogs	3	10	4	4
Second quality	3	8	4	2	Neat sm. porkers	4	6	5	0

Suckling calves, 23s to 30s; Quarter-old store-pigs, 22s to 28s each.

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL, Monday, Dec. 10.

Since our last report, the supplies of meat on sale here slaughtered in the metropolis have been very moderate; but over 35,000 carcases have been received from Scotland and various parts of England, including 50 from the Continent. Rather an extensive business has been transacted, as follows:—

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior beef	3s	2d	to 3s	6d	Inf. mutton	3s	2d	to 3s 6d
Middling ditto	3s	8d	3s	10d	Middling ditto	3s	8d	4s 0d
Prime largedo.	4s	0d	4s	2d	Prime ditto	4s	2d	4s 6d
Do. small do	4s	4d	4s	8d	Veal	3s	8d	4s 10d
Large pork	3s	10d	4s	4d	Small pork	4s	6d	5s 4d

PRODUCE MARKET, Mincing-lane, Dec. 11.

Sugar.—The market still remains suspended, as scarcely any portion of the public sales found buyers, and no business of importance reported by private contract; prices must therefore be considered nominal.

Coffee.—150 casks plantation Ceylon sold freely in public sale at about 1s advance, 61s to 63s; 420 bags native Ceylon sold at 51s to 52s 6d.

Tea.—A large amount of business has been done the last two days, say 3,500 chests, sold at 9¼d short prompts, and it is now difficult to buy under 9¼d regular terms.

Rice.—5,000 bags and 1,600 packets of good Bengal sold at and after the public sale from 15s 6d to 17s 6d, which scarcely supported previous rates.

Rum.—The market is firm, but both buyers and sellers seem inclined to wait for the result of the Government contract to be taken on Thursday next.

Cotton.—600 bales sold at full prices.

Iron.—Scotch pig has declined to 77s, 77s 6d.

Tallow.—The market has been excited, and an advance of 2s has been established; the quotation now is 69s to 69s 6d.

Cochineal.—The public sale went off steadily at full prices.

Saltpetre continues out of demand.

In other articles no material alteration. Markets generally have been dull to-day.

COVENT-GARDEN, Saturday, Dec. 8.—Fruits and vegetables, both English and foreign, continue to be well supplied. Pine apples are still plentiful and cheap, and the same may be said of English grapes. Pears consist of Marie Louise, brown beurre, Duchesse d'Angouleme, glout morceau, beurre diel, and Chaumontelles. Apples are plentiful and cheap. There is an increased supply of Kent cob nuts, and prices for them are in consequence lower. Spanish chesnuts realise from 12s to 24s per bushel, and new Spanish nuts fetch from 16s to 20s per bushel, Barcelona from 20s to 22s, almonds 24s, Brazils from 12s to 14s; lemons 6s to 12s per 100. Oranges fetch from 1s to 1s 6d per dozen, or from 3s to 10s per 100. The best Kent regent potatoes still fetch 115s; York regents, 100s; and Scotch do 60s to 90s. There are very large supplies of potatoes from the north, and trade is not good except for best samples. Spanish onions fetch

from 1s to 4s per dozen. Lettuces realise from 6d to 9d per score. Cut flowers consist of chrysanthemums, heliotropes, euphorbias, Japan lilies, cyclamens, Chinese primroses, heaths, and roses.

PROVISIONS, London, Monday, Dec. 10.—There was a slow and limited demand for Irish butter last week. Prices nearly nominal. The agents were restrained from selling at lower rates in consequence of the continued stringent advices from Ireland. Some of the dealers were offering to resell at a decline of 1s to 2s per cwt. Foreign of fine quality was in request, and slightly dearer. Other descriptions in steady sale, at previous rates. Of bacon we have to report a further decline of 2s to 3s per cwt, and but little if any increase in the demand. Prime sizeable Waterford was sold, in weekly shipments up to February next, at 58s, and Limerick, for three months forward, at 56s per cwt on board. Hams were difficult to sell even at a reduction of 4s per cwt, unless smoked, small in size, and of choice quality. In lard no change.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

	s.	s.		s.	s.
Friesland, per cwt...	110	to 118	Cheshire (new) per cwt	70	to 84
Kiel	100	110	Chedder	74	90
Dorset	110	116	Double Gloucester.....	66	76
Carlow	108	110	Single ditto	60	70
Waterford	98	102	York Hams (new).....	96	108
Cork (new)	94	106	Westmoreland ditto ...	94	104
Limerick	98	102	Irish ditto	90	98
Sligo	94	102	Wiltshire Bacon (dried)	76	80
Fresh, per dozen.....	13	15	Irish..... (green)	68	70

POTATOES, Borough and Spitalfields, Monday, Dec. 10.—As the arrivals of potatoes have been extensive since Monday last, the demand is heavy, and prices are rather drooping. York regents, 95s to 110s; Scotch do, 75s to 95s; do cups, 75s to 80s; Kent and Essex, 75s to 95s; Lincolns, 70s to 75s; blues, 75s to 80s per ton. Last week's imports were 3 sacks from Antwerp, 29 bags from Amsterdam, 8 baskets from Rotterdam, and 100 tons from Jersey.

HOPS, Borough, Monday, Dec. 10.—We have had a fair demand during the past week for all hops of good colour and quality, at about the same currency. For low and inferior descriptions there is scarcely any inquiry.

TALLOW, Monday, Dec. 10.—We have had a very inactive market for tallow since Monday last. To-day the demand is heavy, and P.Y.C. on the spot is selling at 66s 6d to 67s per cwt. Rough fat has fallen to 3s 7d per 8lbs.

PARTICULARS.

	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.
Stock	68451	48819	42140	33577	1s960
Price of Yellow Candle ..	36s 9d to 0s 0d	46s 0d to 0s 0d	55s 9d to 56s 0d	64s 6d to 0s 0d	66s 6d to 67s 0d
Delivery last Week	3156	5269	1347	2011	2751
Ditto from the 1st of June ..	57455	57188	58867	43618	72508
Arrived last Week.....	200	1296	11165	1376	688
Ditto from the 1st of June ..	89372	65309	76300	41175	4 754
Price of Town Tallow	39s 6d	49s 3d	58s 0d	65s 6d	67s 0d

OILS, Monday, Dec. 10.—Linseed oil has sold slowly, at 42s 6d per cwt on the spot, and 43s to 44s for forward delivery. All other oils are very dull. Sperm, 125*l* to 130*l*. Pale seal is held on former terms. Seal oil is worth 67s to 68s. Turpentine is heavy.

WOOL, City, Monday, Dec. 10.—The imports of wool last week were 94 bags from Hambro' and 861 bales from Port Phillip. We have a better feeling in the demand for most kinds of English wool than for some time past. Short wools are chiefly in request, but we have no improvement to notice in the quotations. The supplies on offer are but moderate.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Down tegs and ewes	1	1	„ 1	2½
Half-bred hogs	1	1	„ 1	2
Half-bred wethers	1	0	„ 1	1
Kent fleeces (mixed)	1	1	„ 1	1½
Combing skin	0	10	„ 1	1
Down ewes	1	0	„ 1	1
Leicester fleeces	0	11	„ 1	0½
Flannel wool	1	0	„ 1	1½
Blanket wool	0	8	„ 1	0

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c.—There has been only a limited demand for flax. Prices, however, are supported. Most kinds of hemp were sold slowly, yet Petersburg clean has realised 43*l* to 44*l* per ton. Jute and coir goods are dull, at barely late rates.

COALS, Monday.—An advance on all coals over Friday's sale. Hetton's, 23s—Lambton's, 22s 6d—Hartlepool, 22s 9d—South Hartlepool, 22s—Eden, 22s—Hartley's, 18s 6d—Wylam, 17s 6d—Heugh Hall, 21s—Harton, 21s—Tanfield, 17s 6d. Fresh arrivals, 78: left unsold from last day, 28; total, 106.

COTTON, Liverpool, Dec. 11.—The sales of cotton to-day are estimated at 7,000 bales, of which 500 are for export, and 500 on speculation. The sales include 200 Egyptian, at 6d to 6¼d; and 2,000 Surat, at 3¾d to 4¼d. The sales since Thursday reach 47,000 bales, and the imports 15,000. The market closed with less spirit than yesterday—almost tamely. Compared with Friday's rates, prices of American and Surat are ¼d per lb dearer. All other kinds without change.

Advertisements.

CHAPPUIS' PATENT REFLECTORS.
Manufactory, 10, St. Mary-axe.
THE DAY LIGHT REFLECTORS diffuse light into dark places, and supersede gas during day time.
THE GAS REFLECTOR increases the light, and decrease the consumption of gas; may be seen in operation at the
PATENTEE'S WAREHOUSE, 65, FLEET-STREET.
Every description of Reflectors for scientific, commercial, and domestic purposes, &c., &c.

STATIONERY at WHOLESALE PRICES.
No Charge for Stamping Crest, Initials, or Address, and carriage paid on orders over 20s. Price Lists sent post free. Useful Envelopes, 3s. per 1,000; the Queen's Head Envelopes, 1s. per dozen; full size Note Paper, 5 quires for 6d.; thick ditto, 5 quires for 1s.; Swan's Copy Books, 2s. per dozen. Postmasters and Country Stationers supplied.
PARKINS and GOTTO, Manufacturing Stationers, 24 and 25, OXFORD-STREET.

TEETH.—By Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent. Newly Invented and Patented Application of Chemically Prepared White India Rubber, in the Construction of Artificial Teeth, Gums, and Palates.—Mr. EPHRAIM MOSELY, Surgeon-Dentist, 61, LOWER GROSVENOR-STREET, Grosvenor-square, Sole Inventor and Patentee.
A new, original, and invaluable invention, consisting in the adaptation, with the most absolute perfection and success, of CHEMICALLY PREPARED WHITE and GUM-COLOURED INDIA RUBBER, as a lining to the ordinary gold or bone frame. The extraordinary results of this application may be briefly noted in a few of their most prominent features, as the following: All sharp edges are avoided; no springs, wires, or fastenings are required; a greatly increased freedom of suction is supplied; a natural elasticity, hitherto wholly unattainable, and a fit, perfected with the most unerring accuracy, is secured, while, from the softness and flexibility of the agents employed, the greatest support is given to the adjoining teeth when loose, or rendered tender by the absorption of the gums. The acids of the mouth exert no agency on the chemically prepared white INDIA RUBBER, and, as it is a non-conductor, fluids of any temperature may, with thorough comfort, be imbibed and retained in the mouth, all unpleasantness of smell and taste being at the same time wholly provided against by the peculiar nature of its preparation. To be obtained only at 61, LOWER GROSVENOR-STREET, LONDON; 14, Gay-street, Bath; and 10, Eldon-square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

PIANOFORTES Manufactured by RALPH SMITH and CO., 171, Bishopsgate-street, are of the very best description, contain all the Recent Improvements, and are such as really can be Warranted. Drawings, &c. will be forwarded, Post free, on application at their Ware-rooms, 171, Bishopsgate-street, London.

"A FRIEND IN NEED."
HUNDREDS of CURES have proved ROPER'S PILLS
(though originally only intended to assist the operation of Roper's Royal Bath Plaster)
the best remedy for all those distressing symptoms attending a weak and disordered Stomach, Liver complaints, Bilious irregularities, Indigestion—such as Nausea or Sickness, Loss of Appetite, Loathing of Food, Pain in the Bowels, Languor and Depression of Spirits, Giddiness, Swimming or determination of Blood to the Head, &c.—the forerunner of apoplexy. Proofs of efficacy:—
(Communicated by Mr. J. C. Reinhardt, Chemist, Hull.)
Sproatley, near Hull, Oct. 3, 1853.
Sirs,—Having found great benefit from Roper's Royal Plasters and Pills, I wish to make my case known for the advantage of those who suffer, as I have done, for a long time. I have been afflicted with spasmodic pains in the chest, and palpitation of the heart, arising from Indigestion and Liver complaint; I was under medical treatment many months without feeling any better. At last I tried one of Roper's Plasters and a box of Pills, which gave me relief in a few days; from which time my health has improved, and I am now quite well.—I remain, with thanks, yours respectfully, Elizabeth Thompson.
ROPER'S PILLS are a purely Botanic compound, and warranted free from any deleterious ingredient, being composed of choice herbs, roots, gums, and balsams, by ROBERT ROPER and SON, Chemists, in boxes at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. each. Sold by most Chemists and Booksellers in the United Kingdom.
ASK FOR ROPER'S PILLS.

THE SYDENHAM TROUSERS, 17s. 6d.
1,000 New Patterns to select from. The great Sale these Trousers have had since their first introduction is a guarantee that they have met with universal approbation.
SAMUEL BROTHERS' determination in first producing these far-famed Trousers was to give greater value for money than has ever been offered, and, through the magnitude of their purchases, they are enabled to pledge themselves that the SYDENHAM TROUSERS at 17s. 6d. are the cheapest and best Trousers ever offered to the public.
Vests off the same as the Trousers, 8s. 6d.
Every garment produced has that style and exquisite finish without pretence; in fact, that gracefulness and ease so rarely obtained, but by which the dress of the true gentleman is invariably distinguished.
Patterns, plate of fashion, and guide to self-measurement, sent free, of the SYDENHAM TROUSERS, and of every other description of Gentlemen's and Youth's Clothing.
SAMUEL BROTHERS' stock for the Present Season is worthy of your inspection, combining the three requisites—quality, style, and *moderate price*.
Ready-made Clothes equal to bespoke—an advantage not to be obtained at any other establishment.

Dress Coats. . . .	21s. to 42s.	Talma . . .	25s. to 50s.
Frock ditto . .	25s. to 46s.	Poncho . . .	21s. to 42s.
Paletots	21s.	Fancy Vests. .	5s. to 10s.
Oxonian Coat . .	16s. to 24s.	Hussar Suits .	25s. to 28s.
Albion Over-Coat .	21s. to 42s.	The New Circular Coat with Belt	13s. 6d.
Toga	25s. to 50s.		

A Four-Pound Suit, Samuel Brothers strongly recommend, made from Saxony Cloth, manufactured by an eminent West-of-England House, the wear of which they warrant. Patterns, &c., sent free.—No. 29, Ludgate-hill.
SAMUEL BROTHERS, MERCHANT TAILORS, OUTFITTERS, HATTERS, &c., 29, LUDGATE-HILL, LONDON.

DEANE'S,
LONDON-BRIDGE,
IRONMONGERY AND FURNISHING WAREHOUSE.
Established A.D. 1700.

DEANE'S TABLE CUTLERY
has for more than 150 years received Extensive and Increasing Public Patronage. The Stock, comprising IVORY, BONE, HORN, and STAG HANDLES, stands unrivalled in Extent and Variety: the prices are the lowest, and the quality of the Steel the very best. Deane's Monument Razors, and London-bridge Strops, are preferred by the best judges to any other. Their Pen and Pocket Knives 6d. each, and upwards, and Ladies' Scissors of every description are all of the finest quality.

ELECTRO-SILVERED DEANEAN PLATE.
This beautiful manufacture is celebrated for its peculiar purity and silvery whiteness, and, as a substitute for silver (from which it cannot, by any test, be distinguished) is unsurpassed. DEANE, DRAY, and Co. have always on SALE TABLE and DESSERT SPOONS and FORKS, in all the newest and most approved silver patterns; also Tea and Coffee Sets, Liqueurs stands, Cruets, Candlesticks, Cake-baskets, and every article usually produced in silver.

IRON BEDSTEADS.
DEANE, DRAY, and Co., manufacture and supply every description of IRON and BRASS BEDSTEADS and CHILDREN'S COTS; and have at times a large Stock of these Articles on hand, together with Beds, Mattresses, Palliasses, &c. Priced Lists, with Drawing, sent, per post, free.

DRAWING-ROOM STOVES.
A large and handsome collection of BRIGHT STOVES for the drawing or dining-room, embracing all the newest designs, is always on sale, in the Stove and Fender department of DEANE, DRAY, and Co.'s establishment. They have applied to these and other classes of register stoves patented improvements, economising the consumption of fuel, for which the highest testimonials have been given. Deane, Dray, and Co., also invite attention to their improved COOKING STOVE, adapted for Gentlemen's Mansions and all large Establishments, with Kitchen Ranges of the best construction. In FENDERS and FIRE IRONS they are constantly introducing every novelty, at the lowest possible prices.

FAMILIES FURNISHING
may obtain (post free on application) DEANE, DRAY, and Co's, GENERAL FURNISHING PRICED LIST, enumerating more than 500 articles, selected from the various departments of their establishment, requisite in fitting up a family residence. The stock includes TABLE CUTLERY, ELECTRO-PLATE, LAMPS, PAPIER MACHE TRAYS, FENDERS, and FIRE-IRONS, IRON BEDSTEADS, BRITANNIA METAL TIN and JAPAN WARE, TURNERY, BRUSHES, MATS, &c.
DEANE, DRAY, AND CO.,
(Opening to the Monument)
LONDON-BRIDGE.

HOT AIR, GAS, VESTA, JOYCE'S STOVES.—Stoves for the economical and safe heating of halls, shops, warehouses, passages, basements, and the like, being at this season demanded, WILLIAM S. BURTON invites attention to his unrivalled assortment, adapted, one or the other, to every conceivable requirement, at prices from 10s. each to thirty guineas. His variety of register and other stoves, fenders, and kitchen ranges, is the largest in existence.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE for SILVER.
The REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced twenty years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when plated by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

	Fiddle Pattern.	Thread or Brunswick Pattern.	King's Pattern.
Tea Spoons, per dozen	16s.	26s.	32s.
Dessert Forks „	30s.	40s.	46s.
Dessert Spoons „	30s.	42s.	46s.
Table Forks „	40s.	56s.	64s.
Table Spoons „	40s.	58s.	66s.

Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

	Fiddle.	Thread.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks, full size, per dozen	12s. ..	28s. ..	30s.
Dessert ditto and ditto.....	16s. ..	21s. ..	25s.
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